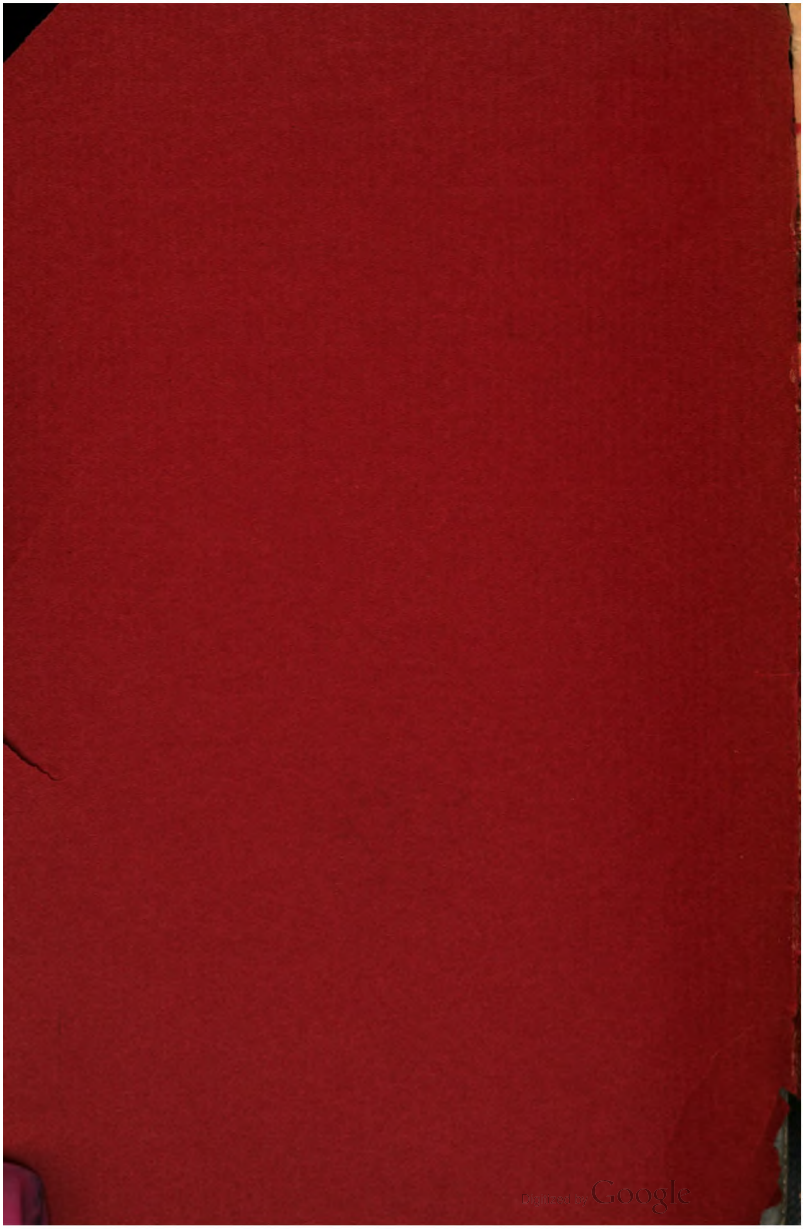
Provisional drill and service regulations for field artillery ...

United States. War Dept

Digitized by Google


Digitized by Google

U. S. War Dept.

UF
403
.A36
1916
v.3

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF

PROVISIONAL

Drill and Service Regulations for Field Artillery

(Horse and Light)

1916

▽

VOLUME III

Part IX

WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1916

Digitized by Google

WAR DEPARTMENT
Document No. 538
Office of the Chief of Staff

Digitized by Google

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF,
Washington, D. C., April 19, 1916.

The following provisional system of Drill and Service Regulations for Field Artillery (Horse and Light), 1916, is approved and herewith published for the information and government of the Regular Army and the Organized Militia of the United States.

By order of the Secretary of War.

H. L. SCOTT,
Major General, Chief of Staff.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	Par.
PART IX. FIRING INSTRUCTION	833–1463
CHAPTER I.—OBJECT AND SEQUENCE OF THE INSTRUCTION	833–837
CHAPTER II.—THE CANNONEERS	838–928
Section I.—Method of instruction	838–843
Section II.—Instruction in matériel	844
Section III.—Duties in detail of the gunner	845–869
The deflection	846–851
The deflection difference	852
The range	853–855
The cross level	856
The direction	857–860
The elevation	861–864
The ready	865
To avoid injury	866
The command to fire	867
To measure a deflection	868–869
Section IV.—Duties in detail of No. 1	870–891
The brake	871–873
The breech	874–875
The site	876–879
The range	880–882
The cross level	883
The breech	884
The elevation	885–887
The set	888
To fire	889
To measure the site	890–891
Section V.—Duties in detail of No. 2	892–901
To shift the trail	893–900
Empty cartridge cases	901
Section VI.—Duties in detail of No. 3	902–911
The bracket fuse setter	903–910
The hand fuse setter	911
Section VII.—Duties in detail of No. 4	912–918
To complete the fuse setting	913–914
To insert the round	915–918

Digitized by Google

PART IX. FIRING INSTRUCTION—Continued.

	Par.
CHAPTER II.—THE CANNONEERS—Continued.	
Section VIII.—Duties in detail of No. 5	919–924
To remove a round from the chest	920
The bracket fuse setter	921–922
The hand fuse setter	923
To pass a round to No. 4	924
Section IX.—Duties of Nos. 6 and 7	925–926
Section X.—Combined training at the piece and at the caisson	927–928
CHAPTER III.—EXERCISES PRELIMINARY TO INSTRUCTION OF THE FIRING BATTERY	929–943
Section I.—General provisions	929–936
Section II.—To move by hand the carriages unlimbered	937
Section III.—Preparation for action and march order	938–943
To prepare for action	938–940
Posts of the cannoneers, carriages unlimbered and prepared for action	941
To resume the order for marching	942–943
CHAPTER IV.—THE FIRING BATTERY AND THE DUTIES OF ITS GUN SQUADS	944–1032
Section I.—Composition, formation, and instruction of the firing battery	944–946
Section II.—Duties in general of the officer of the firing battery and of the noncommissioned officers of the gun sections	947–951
Section III.—Measures for facilitating the rapid opening of fire	952–954
Section IV.—Deflection and deflection difference	955–971
Section V.—Range and site	972–976
Section VI.—Projectiles, fuses, kinds of fire	977–984
Section VII.—Methods of laying	985–988
Section VIII.—Fire for adjustment; fire for effect; accuracy	989–994
Section IX.—Methods of fire	995–1008
Salvos	996–1002
Volley fire	1003–1005
Volley fire, sweeping	1006–1007
Fire at will	1008
Section X.—Classes of targets, appropriate methods of fire and brackets	1009–1015

Digitized by Google

PART IX. FIRING INSTRUCTION—Continued.

	Par.
CHAPTER IV.—THE FIRING BATTERY, ETC.—Con.	
Section XI.—Firing data and their communication to the gun squads	1016–1024
Section XII.—Combined duties of the members of the gun squads	1025–1032
CHAPTER V.—REPLACEMENT OF AMMUNITION AND OF CASUALTIES	1033–1043
CHAPTER VI.—SERVICE FIRINGS	1044–1433
Section I.—Definitions	1044
Section II.—The trajectory	1045–1054
Manipulation of the trajectory in the plans of fire	1054
Section III.—General provisions	1055–1063
Section IV.—Positions	1064–1070
Section V.—Duties of officers	1071–1088
Section VI.—Observing stations	1089–1094
Section VII.—Communications	1095–1135
Methods	1095–1098
Battery communication	1099–1104
Battalion communication	1105–1113
Regimental communication	1114
Brigade communication	1115
Laying the wire	1116–1120
Guarding the line	1121–1123
To use the telephone	1124–1125
Use of the buzzer	1126
Tests	1127–1128
Signaling	1129–1130
Voice relay	1131
Couriers	1132
Whistle	1133
Aircraft	1134–1135
Section VIII.—Preparation of fire	1136–1226
Designation of objectives	1144–1154
Parallax	1155–1158
Aiming points	1159–1167
Firing over a mask	1168–1176
Measurement of angles	1177–1182
Deflection	1183–1186
Deflection difference	1187–1195
The deflection of the directing piece	1196–1207
Site	1208–1214
Percussion fire	1215
Time fire	1216
Corrector	1217
Method of fire	1218–1221

Digitized by Google

PART IX. FIRING INSTRUCTION—Continued.
CHAPTER VI.—SERVICE FIRINGS—Continued.
Section VIII.—Preparation of fire—Continued. Par.
Range ... 1222–1224
Atmospheric influences ... 1225
Summary ... 1226
Section IX.—Observation of fire ... 1227–1276
Bursts in air ... 1244–1248
Bursts on impact ... 1249–1252
Direction ... 1253
Height of burst ... 1254–1258
Range ... 1259–1276
Section X.—Observation of terrain ... 1277–1280
Section XI.—Observation from aircraft ... 1281–1282
Section XII.—Conduct of fire ... 1283–1393
Fire for adjustment ... 1288–1296
Deflection ... 1297–1302
Deflection difference ... 1303–1306
Height of burst ... 1307–1320
Range ... 1321–1345
Method of fire ... 1346–1352
Adjustment for aircraft ... 1353
Fire for effect ... 1354–1356
Range ... 1357–1365
Height of burst ... 1366–1371
Distribution ... 1372–1382
Method of fire ... 1383–1393
Section XIII.—Units of observation ... 1394–1397
Section XIV.—Targets ... 1398–1417
Obstacles, intrenchments ... 1399
Localities ... 1400
Woods ... 1401
Reconnaissance and staff parties ... 1402
Personnel of command, observers, signalmen, telephonists ... 1403
Cavalry ... 1404
Artillery ... 1405–1407
Infantry ... 1408–1409
Machine guns ... 1410
Aerial targets ... 1411–1412
Targets with respect to terrain ... 1413–1417
Section XV.—Firing in the battalion ... 1418–1425
Section XVI.—Night firing ... 1426–1433
CHAPTER VII.—TARGET PRACTICE ... 1434–1463
Pistol practice ... 1435
Subcaliber practice ... 1436–1437
Service practice ... 1438–1463

Digitized by Google

Part IX.

FIRING INSTRUCTION.

CHAPTER I.—OBJECT AND SEQUENCE OF THE INSTRUCTION.

833. The objects of this instruction are:

1. To train the personnel in the mechanism of the methods of fire so that, at the word of command, fire of the desired nature may be delivered with certainty and celerity. **(Fire discipline.)**

2. To train officers and their assistants so that they may utilize the weapons at their disposal to the best advantage. **(Conduct of fire.)**

834. A progressive order of instruction will be followed in each case.

Training in the elementary duties of the two kinds should be undertaken separately at first. Drill in the mechanism of fire is the essential feature of instruction of the first kind; practice in determining firing data and in adjusting fire under various assumed condition the essential feature of instruction of the second kind.

835. All officers and men should receive training in fire discipline. It begins with the instruction of the **cannoneer**, passes to that of the **gun squad**, then to that of the **firing battery**, and then to that of the higher units.

The cannoneer must be taught to perform quickly and correctly the individual duties required of him in the service of the piece. He must acquire such a thorough knowledge of these duties and such a well-grounded habit of performing them properly that the service of the piece will not be affected by the excitement of action.

The gun squad must be trained as a unit, so that its individual members work together smoothly, quietly, and effectively in serving the piece.

Digitized by Google

The instruction of the firing battery and of the higher units should secure the harmonious working of the organization in delivering fire.

836. Training in conduct of fire begins with the instruction of individual officers and their assistants and then passes to that of appropriate combinations.

The individual must be taught the care and the accurate and rapid use of the instruments supplied for observation and communication and must learn to put into practice the principles underlying observation of fire and its adjustment to secure effect.

The combined personnel must be trained so that individuals work together smoothly and effectually in obtaining accurate and useful information and in its correct application and transmission.

837. Not until instruction in fire discipline and in conduct of fire have each sufficiently progressed should they be combined. The training should be carried on, first in the park or on the drill ground, and then on terrain of every available description; targets representing as nearly as possible those to be met in service should be attacked, first by simulated fire, then with subcaliber and service ammunition. The commander is thus enabled, without confusion or delay, to turn the fire of his unit from point to point and to concentrate or distribute this fire in such manner as may be most desirable.

CHAPTER II.—THE CANNONEER.

SECTION I.—METHOD OF INSTRUCTION.

838. In view of the great importance of instruction of this character, it is begun as soon as the recruits join the battery, and is continued, in addition to other instruction, until the cannoneers are thoroughly skilled in their individual duties. It will often be found advantageous to give the older cannoneers instruction of this kind from time to time.

839. Care must be taken to impress upon the recruits the importance of the instruction of cannoneers and to maintain

Digitized by Google

their interest. The time spent in thoroughly training the individual cannoneer in the operation of the matériel will result in increased rapidity and accuracy of the gun squad as a whole.

840. The instruction of cannoneers and of gun squads will be under the immediate supervision of one or more battery officers selected for this work.

841. The permanent gunners and men skilled in the duties of Nos. 1 and 3 can be used to advantage in the instruction of the recruits. By assigning particular details of instruction to the older men and by causing the recruits to pass from one to the other of the instructors the instruction is expedited and uniformity is secured. The officer in charge must be careful that the instructors are accurate in their explanations and that they insist upon exact performance of the various duties.

842. During instruction in the individual duties in the service of the piece special stress must be laid on the necessity for accuracy. The recruits should be made to understand thoroughly that speed is purely a matter of practice, but that accuracy can only be obtained by forming the habit of exactness from the beginning. Rapidity is increased by insisting that each individual performs his duties in regular sequence.

843. To provide variety and so to maintain interest, instruction in the duties of the gun squad (**929–1043**) may be begun after a few days of instruction in the duties of cannoneers; but the last-mentioned instruction must not be curtailed. The keeping of records as to the time required by each cannoneer to perform the various duties and of the errors made not only stimulates interest but furnishes an intelligent basis upon which to select men for permanent assignment to duties.

SECTION II.—INSTRUCTION IN MATÉRIEL.

844. The instruction begins with the first drills of the cannoneer, and is carried on during the intervals of more advanced work. It is usually conducted in the park and should be practical in its nature, involving a careful and painstaking description, supplemented by actual demonstration of the method of operation of the particular element of the matériel being de-

Digitized by Google

scribed. It is continued until there is acquired an intimate knowledge of the matériel in use in the battery, embracing such subjects as the following:

1. Nomenclature of the principal parts of the piece and caisson.
2. Purpose and operation of the different parts of the gun and carriages; for example, the application of the brakes.
3. Description and use of sights and quadrants, their attachment and manipulation.
4. Kinds of projectiles and the special uses of each.
5. Name and objects of the principal parts of fuzes and fuze setters, and their mode of operation.
6. Disassembling and assembling those parts of the matériel which frequently require cleaning and repair.
7. Transferring sights and quadrants between their traveling and firing positions.
8. Names of tools and accessories, where they are carried, and how they are used.

SECTION III.—DUTIES IN DETAIL OF THE GUNNER.

845. The duties of the gunner in the service of the piece are:

1. To set the deflection.
2. To apply the deflection difference.
3. To set the range.
4. To level the cross-level bubble on the sight-shank socket.
5. To give the direction to the piece.
6. To give the elevation in direct laying.
7. To call **ready.**
8. To move his head out of the way of the sight before the piece is fired.
9. To give the command to fire the piece.
10. To measure a deflection.

The Deflection.

846. The deflection is the horizontal angle between the line of sight and the axis of the bore. There are two sights—the panoramic sight and the peep sight. The panoramic sight is habitually used except in **fire at will (1008).**

Digitized by Google

847. The panoramic sight is so constructed that any horizontal angle can be laid off by it, and that by changing its setting the gunner can look in any horizontal direction. The sight has two scales. The limb of the instrument is divided into 64 equal parts. The even-numbered divisions are marked in figures. The smaller scale on the left side of the body of the instrument is divided into 100 equal parts, and is called the micrometer. A complete turn of the micrometer changes the reading of the limb by one division. The complete circumference is, by this arrangement, divided into 6,400 equal parts, and the least reading is one of these parts, called a mil. A deflection of 1 mil corresponds to a deviation at the objective of one one-thousandth of the range. Hence a difference of 1 mil in deflection is equivalent to 1 yard in direction at 1,000 yards from the gun, to 1½ yards at 1,500 yards, and so on.

When the panoramic sight is set at zero the vertical plane through the line of sight is parallel to the axis of the bore.

848. To set off a deflection on the panoramic sight: The gunner turns the rotating head of the instrument until the number of hundreds of the setting is shown by the index of the limb and the number of tens and units, if any, by the index of the micrometer.

If, in setting the deflection, the rotating head of the instrument has to be moved through a small angle only, the slow-motion screw is used. But if the reading given requires a large angular movement, the slow-motion mechanism is ungeared and the rotating head is turned around to the approximate position by hand. The slow-motion mechanism is then thrown in gear and used to set off the exact setting.

849. The gunner is practiced in setting deflections on the panoramic sight by command. Thus, for example: **Deflection, 1640.**

The gunner brings the index of the limb between the divisions marked "16" and "17" on the limb, then turns the micrometer until its index reads 40.

The instructor verifies the setting.

850. The graduations on the deflection scale of the peep sight correspond to those on the panoramic sight, the unit of the

Digitized by Google

scale being 1 mil. When set at 0 (6,400) the vertical plane through the line of sight is parallel to the axis of the bore. Toward the left the readings increase, the maximum reading being 45 mils; toward the right the readings decrease, the minimum reading being 6,355 mils.

To set off a deflection on the peep sight: The gunner turns the peep-sight screw head with his left hand until the index is opposite the desired graduation.

He is practiced in setting off deflections as before (**849**).

851. To throw the projectile to the left, increase the deflection. To throw the projectile to the right, diminish the deflection.

The captain changes the direction by commanding: **Right (Left) (So much).** The command **Right (Left)** indicates the direction in which the captain wishes to throw the projectile.

The gunner is practiced in setting off a new deflection. Thus, the reading being 1620, **Left 20,** the gunner at once sets 1640.

The Deflection Difference.

852. The training of the gunner in applying the deflection difference (**955** et seq.) is begun when he is expert in setting off the deflection.

The Range.

853. The range of a target is the distance in yards from the gun to the target.

854. The range scale on the sight shank is graduated from **100** to **6,500** yards, the least reading being 50 yards. The scale may be readily set by eye to read to 25 yards.

To set off a range on the sight shank: The gunner moves the sight shank up or down in its socket until the desired graduation is opposite the index. In setting the range he is careful to lower his head so as to look squarely at the scale and the index.

The sight shank is moved up or down by means of a scroll gear operated with the right hand. If a considerable movement of the shank is necessary this mechanism is ungeared by drawing outward the scroll-gear handle with the right hand; the shank is then raised or lowered with the left hand until

Digitized by Google

the desired graduation is near the index. The scroll-gear mechanism is then thrown in gear and utilized to set the scale at the exact setting desired.

855. The gunner is practiced in setting the sight for range, thus: The sight shank being in its socket, the instructor commands, for example, **2700.**

The gunner sets the sight as just described and the instructor verifies the setting.

The Cross Level.

856. To center the bubble of the cross level: The gunner, with his left hand, turns the leveling screw on the sight-shank socket until the bubble is centered.

The centering of this bubble is necessary to avoid errors in the direction of the gun due to a difference in level of the gun wheels.

The Direction.

857. To give the direction to the piece: The gunner traverses the piece on the carriage until the vertical cross hair of his panoramic sight is on the target or the aiming point. He habitually operates the traversing gear with his left hand. When he finds that he can not traverse the piece sufficiently to bring the vertical cross hair on the aiming point or target, he commands: **Muzzle right (left) (893–900).** Immediately upon giving this command the gunner brings his piece back to the center of traverse, except that in the case of fire at moving targets the muzzle of the gun is moved as far as it will go in the direction opposed to that of the motion of the target.

858. The gunner is practiced in the manipulation of the traversing gear and in bringing the vertical cross hair accurately on the aiming point. He must form the habit of turning the traversing handwheel in a clockwise direction to throw the cross wires to the left, and vice versa. He must also form the habit of bringing the gun to the center of traverse whenever it is necessary to shift the trail.

859. When the gunner gives the direction **only,** the method of laying is **indirect.** The signal that **indirect laying** is to be used is the command: **Aiming point (So and so).**

Digitized by Google

860. The gunner is practiced in his duties of laying **for direction only** as follows:

The gunner being seated on his trail seat at the piece unlimbered, the sights in their sockets, the bubble of the cross level centered, and the piece at the center of its traverse, the instructor commands, for example:

1. **Aiming point, the chimney on that white house.**
2. **Deflection, 240.**
3. **2400.**

1. At the command for the deflection the gunner sets it off on his panoramic sight.

2. Sets off, **approximately,** the range announced.

3. Looks at the cross level and centers the bubble, if necessary.

4. Looks through the sight and operates the traversing mechanism so as to bring the vertical cross hair on the aiming point.

5. Calls **ready** when he has laid the gun accurately for direction.

The gunner takes care not to touch the elevating gear in this method of laying. The approximate elevation is given by the instructor or an assistant. The chief of section causes the trail to be shifted until, when the gunner has set off the deflection, a side face of the rotating head of the sight is in line with the aiming point.

The instructor verifies the sight setting and the centering of the cross level bubble and sees whether the sight is accurately directed upon the aiming point.

If the piece has been laid for a given deflection, the instructor may command, for example: **Right (Left), 20.**

The gunner applies the correction to the old deflection and lays the piece as explained above.

The Elevation.

861. To give the elevation to the piece, the gunner turns the elevating handle until the horizontal cross hair is on the **bottom** of the target.

Digitized by Google

The gunner is practiced in the manipulation of the elevating gear. He must form the habit of turning the handle in a clockwise direction to increase the elevation and, therefore, the range and vice versa.

862. When the gunner gives both the direction and the elevation, the method of laying is **direct.** The signal that **direct laying** is to be used is the command **Target (So and so).**

863. The gunner is practiced in the duty of laying for both direction and range as follows:

The gunner, being seated on his trail seat at the piece unlimbered, the sights in their sockets, the bubble of the cross level centered, the piece at the center of its traverse, the instructor commands, for example:

1. **Target, that gun.**
2. **Deflection, 10.**
3. **2400.**

At the indication of the target an assistant gives the piece the general direction under the supervision of the chief of section.

As the commands are given the gunner—

1. Sets off the deflection ordered.
2. Sets off the range ordered.
3. Centers the cross level bubble, if necessary.
4. Looks through the sight and operates the traversing and elevating mechanism so as to bring the line of sight on the bottom of the target.
5. Calls **ready** when the gun is accurately laid.

The instructor verifies the sight settings, the centering of the bubble of the cross level, and sees whether the gun is laid accurately upon the target.

864. Whatever the method of laying, the gunner must always see that the gun is at the **center** of its traverse whenever it is necessary to shift the trail, except when firing at moving targets. This centering of the gun in its traverse and the accurate establishment of the general direction avoid frequent shifting of the trail and consequent loss of time which would otherwise result.

48351°—16——2

Digitized by Google

The Ready.

865. The call **ready** by the gunner indicates to the chief of section that the piece is accurately laid and is ready to fire.

To Avoid Injury.

866. Unless the gunner is careful to move his head out of the way of the sight before the gun is fired, the shock of discharge may bring the sight against his eye with sufficient force to injure it.

The Command to Fire.

867. The gunner invariably gives or repeats the command **fire** in actual or simulated firing, so as to insure his piece being fired at the proper time.

To Measure a Deflection.

868. The gun being established in direction by direct laying or otherwise, the deflection may be measured by turning the rotating head of the panoramic sight until the vertical cross hair is on the aiming point. The reading of the instrument is then the deflecton sought.

869. The gunner is practiced in measuring the deflection as follows:

The gun being laid in direction on any target with zero deflection and the gunner seated on his trail seat, the instructor commands, for example:

1. **Aiming point, that clock tower.**
2. **MEASURE THE DEFLECTION.**

1. The gunner turns the rotating head of the panoramic sight until the vertical cross hair is on the designated aiming point.

2. He then reads and announces the deflection, thus: **Deflection, 490.**

The instructor verifies the reading and sees whether the sight is accurately directed upon the aiming point.

Digitized by Google

SECTION IV.—DUTIES IN DETAIL OF NO. 1.

870. The duties of No. 1 in the service of the piece are:

1. To set and release the brake.
2. To open the breech.
3. To set the site on the quadrant.
4. To set the range on the quadrant.
5. To center the cross level bubble of the quadrant.
6. To close the breech.
7. In indirect laying, to give the levation.
8. To call set.
9. To fire the piece.
10. To measure the site.

The Brake.

871. To set the brake, No. 1 grasps the brake-lever handle, pulls the lever down until the brake shoes come firmly against the wheels, and then swings the handle in until the lever engages in the rack.

872. To release the brake, No. 1 grasps the handle and pulls the lever so as to tighten the brake somewhat and so enable him to release the lever from the rack by throwing the handle to one side. Having released the lever from the rack, he pushes the handle up until the brake shoes are well away from the wheels.

873. No. 1 sets the brake as soon as the piece has been given the general direction. Whenever the trail has to be shifted No. 1 releases the brake and sets it again as soon as the trail has been reestablished.

The Breech.

874. To open the breech, No. 1 grasps the operating lever with his left hand and compresses the lever latch. He then draws the lever to the rear and right, thus swinging the block to the right. The lever should be drawn sharply so as to give the ejector sufficient force to throw the cartridge case clear of the gun.

Digitized by Google

875. No. 1 opens the breech as soon as the gun is in position and prepared for action and keeps it open at all times, except when the piece is loaded, until the command for march order (942) or limbering (202–203) is given, when he closes it. He is careful to see that the block remains fully away from the breech so that it will not interfere with loading.

In opening the breech after firing the piece, No. 1 half rises from his seat and, leaning to the rear, opens the breech as the piece returns into battery.

The Site.

876. The site is the angle between a horizontal plane and the line from the gun to the target. It is measured in mils and a difference of one mil in site corresponds to a difference in level between the gun and the target of one one-thousandth of the range.

877. On the right side of the body of the quadrant is the level scale the divisions of which are marked 2, 3, 4, and 5. Above the level scale at the upper end of the micrometer screw is the level micrometer scale which is divided into 100 equal parts. The site is set off on these scales. A complete turn of the micrometer changes the reading of the level scale by one division. One division on the micrometer is one mil; one division on the level scale is therefore 100 mils and its graduated divisions are called 200, 300, etc. Three hundred corresponds to targets at the level of the gun; below 300 corresponds to targets below the gun; and above 300 to those above the gun.

878. **To set off the site,** No. 1, with his right hand, turns the micrometer screw until the number of hundreds of the setting is shown by the level index and the number of tens and units is shown by the index of the micrometer. It is necessary in setting the site that No. 1, after setting the level scale, place his head so as to look squarely down on the micrometer. He must form the habit of moving the micrometer scale in a clockwise direction to increase the site setting, in a counterclockwise direction to diminish the setting.

Digitized by Google

879. No. 1 is practiced in setting sites by command.

The quadrant being in its socket, the instructor commands, for example: Site, 315.

No. 1 turns the micrometer screw until the index of the level scale is between the graduation marked 3 and the graduation marked 4, and the index of the micrometer reads 15.

The instructor verifies the setting.

The Range.

880. In indirect laying the range is set off on the range disk of the quadrant. The range disk is graduated from zero to 6,500 yards. The least reading on the scale is 50 yards, but the range may readily be set by eye to a least reading of 25 yards.

881. To set off a range, No. 1 turns the scroll gear handle with the left hand until the index is opposite the designated range. In setting a range, it is important that No. 1 place his head so that his eye will be squarely opposite the range scale.

If it is necessary to make a considerable change of reading, the slow-motion mechanism is ungeared by drawing out the handle. By pushing up or down, the scale is moved until it is near the desired setting. The tension on the handle is then released and the slow-motion mechanism is thrown into gear and used to effect an accurate setting.

882. No. 1 is practiced in setting ranges by command.

The quadrant being in or out of its seat the instructor commands, for example: 2550. No. 1 manipulates the handle with his left hand until the index is brought opposite the designated reading.

The instructor verifies the setting.

The Cross Level.

883. To center the bubble of the cross level, No. 1 turns the cross level screw with the right hand. The centering of this bubble is necessary in order to avoid errors in the elevation of the piece due to a difference in level of the gun wheels. No. 1 is careful to keep the cross bubble centered at all times.

Digitized by Google

The Breech.

884. To close the breech, No 1 places the middle of the palm of his open left hand against the operating lever, pushes the lever to the left, and swings the block smartly to its seat.

The Elevation.

885. When the quadrant is set and the elevation is given by No. 1 the laying is said to be **indirect.** The signal that indirect laying is to be used is the command: **Aiming point (So-and-so).**

The signal that direct laying is to be used and that consequently No. 1 is not to set the quadrant or give the elevation is the command: **Target (So-and-so).** In direct laying No. 1 must be careful not to touch the elevating mechanism.

886. To give the elevation to the piece, No. 1 operates the elevating handle until the bubble of the elevation level is centered.

Turning the elevating handle clockwise moves the bubble to the front and increases the elevation and the range, and vice versa. It is important that this become second nature to No. 1.

887. No. 1 may be practiced in his duties of laying for elevation as follows:

No. 1 being seated on his trail seat, at the piece unlimbered, the quadrant in its seat and the cross level bubble centered, the instructor commands, for example:

1. **Site 280.**
2. **3400.**

1. At the command for the site No. 1 sets it off with his right hand.
2. Sets the range with his left hand.
3. Centers the cross level bubble, if necessary.
4. Centers the bubble of the elevation by turning the elevating handle with his right hand.
5. Calls **set** when he has laid the piece accurately for elevation.

The instructor verifies the settings and the centering of the bubbles.

Digitized by Google

The Set.

888. The call set by No. 1 indicates that so far as he is concerned the piece is accurately laid.

As soon as he calls set No. 1 grasps the firing handle with the left hand.

When the chief of section cautions with the lanyard, No. 1 attaches the lanyard to the firing mechanism and, after calling set, steps clear of the wheel, holding the end of the lanyard in his left hand.

To Fire.

889. To fire the piece, No. 1 at the command of his gunner pushes the firing handle down with his left hand, so as to release the firing pin. It is important that No. 1 form the habit of using only his left hand to fire the gun. This makes it impossible for him to have any part of his body in the way of the gun during recoil.

In firing with the lanyard, No. 1 pulls on the lanyard until the firing pin is released. The lanyard is not used except when the ground is such that the trail spade is not easily seated and then is usually necessary only for the first shot.

To Measure the Site.

890. The gun is first laid directly on the target by the gunner, who sets the sight shank at any convenient range, the deflection at zero, and brings both the cross hairs on the target by traversing and elevating the piece. No. 1 then sets the range disk of the quadrant at the same range as that on the sight shank and centers the bubble of the elevation level by turning the micrometer screw. The site reading is the site of the target.

Digitized by Google

891. No. 1 is practiced in the duty of measuring the site as follows:

The gun being accurately laid on the target by means of the panoramic sight, the sight shank being set at any convenient range, 2700, for example, the instructor commands:

1. **Measure the site.**
2. **2700.**

1. At the command 2700, No. 1 sets 2700 on his range disk.
2. Centers the cross level bubble, if necessary.
3. Centers the bubble of the elevation level by turning the micrometer screw.
4. Calls out the site reading, thus: **Site 330.**

The instructor verifies the quadrant settings and the centering of the bubbles.

SECTION V.—DUTIES IN DETAIL OF NO. 2.

892. The duties of No. 2 in the service of the piece are:

1. To shift the trail so as to give the general direction to the piece.
2. To throw the empty cartridge cases out of the way of the gun squad.

To Shift the Trail.

893. For the assistance of No. 2, the upper edges of the top and main shields should be graduated in mils, and each division of 50 mils should be marked. No. 2 should also be instructed as to the value in mils of the width of the trail spade and of the float.

With the origin at the middle of an upper edge the divisions on the shields should be for the average case with the 3-inch field gun 6, 12, 18.1, and 24.5 inches from the origin to indicate divisions of 50, 100, 150, and 200 mils, respectively. The middle of the top of the tire is approximately 250 mils from the center division.

A shift of the trail by the width of its mark in the ground corresponds to a change of direction of about 150 mils.

A shift of the trail by the width of the float corresponds to a change of direction of about 220 mils.

Digitized by Google

894. To shift the trail, No. 2 stands immediately in rear of the trail handspike, feet about 18 inches apart, and grasps the handspike with both hands.

895. When the target is visible and direct laying is used, No. 2 sights along the barrel and shifts the trail so as to point the gun directly at the target. Unless the target is moving it should not be necessary to shift the trail during the firing. In the case of moving targets No. 2, after once pointing the piece at the target, does not shift the trail until he gets the gunner's command: **Muzzle right (left).** He then shifts the trail so as to bring the piece again on the target.

Whenever it is necessary to shift the trail in direct laying, No. 2 watches the gunner and does not complete the shifting of the trail until the gunner has traversed the gun to the center or to one extreme of its movement on the carriage **(864).**

896. No. 2 is practiced in pointing the piece directly at the target.

The piece being in position and No. 2 at the trail handspike, the instructor commands, for example:

Target, that house.

No. 2 points the piece quickly on the designated target.

The instructor verifies the pointing with the panoramic sight set at zero deflection.

897. When the piece is laid for direction by the use of an aiming point **(indirect laying),** No. 2 gives the original direction to the piece by shifting the trail in accordance with the commands or signals of the chief of section, or of some one representing the chief of section.

To signal to No. 2, the chief of section extends his arm toward the trail, palm of the hand turned and fingers pointing in the direction in which the trail is to be moved. To indicate that the direction is correct and that the trail is to be lowered, the chief of section commands: **Trail down;** the corresponding signal is the bringing of the extended arm sharply to the side.

898. No. 2 is practiced in giving the piece its initial pointing in indirect laying. In these exercises an aiming point is taken, the sight is set at an appropriate reading and the chief of sec-

Digitized by Google

tion, looking along a side of the rotating head, causes the gun to be given its proper direction.

No. 2 should also be instructed as to what should be the approximate direction of the piece when the sight, set at different deflections, is directed on an aiming point.

899. After the initial direction has been given, No. 2, in indirect laying, shifts the trail whenever the deflection is changed by 50 mils or more and also whenever he gets the command: **Muzzle right (left).**

No. 2 must thoroughly understand that shifting the trail to the right (left) moves the muzzle to the left (right).

900. No. 2 is practiced in shifting the trail at the command for a deflection change of 50 mils or more.

The piece being in position and No. 2 at the trail handspike, the sight directed on an aiming point, the instructor commands, for example:

1. **Right 100.**
2. **Trail down.**

1. At the command **Right 100,** No. 2, standing in his position for shifting the trail, locates an object, as far away as possible, which is in line with the graduation marked 100 on the right of the top of the shield, and shifts the trail to the left so as to bring the center division on the shield in line with the object selected.

2. At the command or signal **trail down** No. 2 lowers the trail.

The instructor makes the appropriate change in the deflection setting and verifies the accuracy of the work of No. 2.

If it be impracticable to select a definite object upon which to sight, No. 2 judges the amount by which the trail must be shifted by the width of the trail spade or float (**893**).

Empty Cartridge Cases.

901. To keep the empty cartridge cases out of the way of the gun squad, No. 2 catches the cases as they are ejected from the gun and throws them a little to the rear of the caisson wheel farthest from the piece.

Digitized by Google

SECTION VI.—DUTIES IN DETAIL OF NO. 3.

902. The duties of No. 3 in the service of the piece are:

1. To set the corrector.
2. To set the range on the fuze setter.
3. To set the fuze when the hand fuze setter is used.

The Bracket Fuze Setter.

903. The fuze setter is a device for setting time fuzes so that the projectiles will burst in the air at such height as may be desired. It has a range scale and a corrector scale.

The range scale is graduated in yards from 0 to 6400, its least reading being 50 yards. When a shrapnel is turned in the fuze setter, the fuze is set so that the projectile will burst, after being fired, at about the range set off on the range scale.

The corrector scale is uniformly graduated into 60 divisions. Every tenth division is numbered in figures 0, 10, 20,——60. The purpose of the device is to change the time of burning of the fuse, independently of the range scale, and thus to control the point at which the projectile bursts. Under normal conditions a change of fuze setting by one unit of this scale produces a variation of about 1 mil in the height of burst of the projectile. The middle graduation of the scale, 30, corresponds theoretically to the normal height of burst, 3 mils.

904. Increasing the corrector reading shortens the time of burning of the fuze and hence raises the point of burst of the projectile; decreasing the corrector reading lengthens the time of burning of the fuze and hence lowers the point of burst of the projectile.

The corrector scale thus affords the means of correcting an observed error in height of burst and of adjusting the mean point of burst at the proper height.

905. To set the corrector, No. 3 turns the corrector worm knob with the right hand so as to bring the movable index opposite the corrector reading ordered. It must become habitual with No. 3 to turn the corrector knob in a clockwise direction to

Digitized by Google

decrease the reading, and to turn the knob counterclockwise to increase the reading.

906. To set the range, No. 3 turns the range worm crank, with either hand, so as to bring the range reading opposite the fixed index of the range scale. It must become habitual with No. 3 to turn the range crank clockwise to increase the reading, and to turn the crank counterclockwise to decrease the reading.

907. In setting either scale, No. 3 must be trained to place his head so that he looks squarely at the scale and its index.

908. No. 3 is repeatedly practiced in setting the scales of the fuze setter by command.

The caisson being in position with the fuze setter lowered and No. 3 being seated at the fuze setter with his back to the inside of the right wheel of the caisson, the instructor commands, for example:

1. **Corrector 28.**
2. **3600.**

1. No. 3 sets off the corrector as soon as it is announced.
2. Sets the range scale at the range ordered.

The instructor verifies the settings.

909. The corrector having once been set, changes in the setting are usually made at the command: **Up (Down) (So many).**

The command **up** means that the corrector reading is to be increased; **down** means that the corrector reading is to be diminished.

No. 3 is practiced in this method as follows:

The corrector having been set at 28, the instructor commands, for example:

1. **Up 5.**
2. **3400.**

1. No. 3 increases the corrector reading by 5 points and, accordingly, sets corrector 33.
2. Sets the range at 3400.

The instructor verifies the settings.

910. Even though time fire is not being used, No. 3 always keeps his scales set according to the commands. If percussion fire is being used, No. 3 is thus always ready to pass to time fire.

Digitized by Google

The Hand Fuze Setter.

911. The hand fuse setter is used only when the bracket fuze setter is not available. No. 3 sets the scales in a manner similar to that described for the bracket fuze setter. He also sets the fuze, No. 5 holding the round.

To set the fuze with the hand fuze setter, No. 3 engages the fuze setter on the fuze and turns the fuze setter to the right with a steady and uniform motion until the lug on the fuze comes firmly against the fuze-setter stop.

Section VII.—Duties in Detail of No. 4.

912. The duties of No. 4 in the service of the piece are:

1. In time fire to complete the setting of the fuze.
2. To insert the round in the breech.
3. In volley fire to call out the number of the round.

To Complete the Fuze Setting.

913. The signal that **time fire** is to be used is the command: **Corrector (So much).** The signal that **percussion fire** is to be used is the commmand: **Shell, or Percussion.**

914. In time fire, to insure correct setting of the fuse, No. 4 turns the projectile to the right before removing it from the fuse setter, being careful not to turn it until the scales have been set.

In turning the projectile, No. 4 stands slightly to the left and rear of the fuse setter facing to the right front. His left hand, back down, grasps the round at or near the forward end of the cartridge case. The palm of the right hand is placed on the base of the cartridge case, the fingers grasping the edge of the base. While turning the projectile, No. 4 takes care to hold the body of the projectile down on the guide and to keep the fuse well engaged by a steady pressure on the base of the cartridge case with the right hand. The projectile should be turned with a steady and uniform motion until the lug on the fuse comes firmly against the fuse setter stop.

Digitized by Google

To Insert the Round.

915. In time fire: Having accurately set the fuze, No. 4 withdraws the round from the fuse setter, taking care to draw it straight out so as to avoid any possibility of changing the setting. At the same time No. 4 slips his left hand toward the point of the projectile until it is about at the center of gravity of the round. As soon as the fuse is clear of the body of the fuze setter No. 4 springs toward the breech, stepping off with the right foot. As he approaches the gun he raises the point of the projectile slightly above the base and allows the weight of the round to be supported by the left hand. The fingers of the right hand are rigidly extended, the palm of the hand being kept firmly pressed against the base of the cartridge case. Taking position to the left and rear of the breech, the front of his body being parallel to the axis of the bore, eyes on the breech recess, No. 4 inserts the nose of the projectile in the chamber and shoves it forward, the extended right hand being brought sharply against the face of the breech. The closing of the breech insures the proper seating of the projectile. As soon as he has inserted the round, No. 4 quickly resumes his position at the fuse setter.

916. When the hand fuse setter is used, and in percussion fire, No. 4 receives a round of ammunition directly from No. 5 (**919**) and inserts it as above prescribed.

917. In percussion fire No. 4, after taking a round from No. 5, stands at his position at the breech and loads the piece **as soon as the previous round has been fired.** No. 4 is thus always ready to load the piece without loss of time. He takes care to stand clear of the breech during recoil.

918. No. 4 is practiced in setting the fuse and in loading the piece. His training in his duties in volley fire is not begun until drill in the duties of the gun squad combined is commenced.

Section VIII.—Duties in Detail of No. 5.

919. The duties of No. 5 in the service of the piece are:

1. To take ammunition from the chest.

2. When the bracket fuze setter is being used, to insert the round in the fuze setter and to set the fuze.

Digitized by Google

3. When the hand fuze setter is used, to hold the round while No. 3 sets the fuze.

4. To pass the round directly to No. 4 in percussion fire, and when the hand fuze setter is used in time fire.

To Remove a Round from the Chest.

920. To take a round from the chest, No. 5 places himself to the left rear of the round selected, grasps the edge of the cartridge case with the fingers of the right hand, pulls the round to the rear, across the front of his body, and catches the body of the projectile with the left hand. As soon as he is relieved of one round No. 5 immediately takes another from the chest.

The Bracket Fuze Letter.

921. When the bracket fuze setter is used, No. 5 strips off the waterproof hood of the fuze. He then inserts the point of the projectile in the fuze setter, taking care that the lug nearest the point of the fuze engages in the groove in the fuze setter, and sets the fuze for the settings then on the fuze setter as prescribed for No. 4.

922. Having set the fuze, No. 5 immediately takes another round from the chest, strips off the waterproof hood, and stands ready to insert the round in the fuze setter as soon as No. 4 has withdrawn the previous round.

The Hand Fuze Setter.

923. When the hand fuze setter is used, No. 5 holds the round while No. 3 sets the fuze. Nos. 3 and 5 should occupy the same relative positions that they have in using the bracket fuze setter. As soon as No. 5 has withdrawn the round from the chest and stripped off the hood, he faces to the right rear and kneels on the right knee. The round is placed with the base of the cartridge case against the right knee, the edge resting on the ground. The point of the projectile is up so that the axis of the round is pointed in the direction of No. 3's head. No. 5

Digitized by Google

grasps the round with both hands, the right arm resting on the right thigh, back of the right hand up. The left arm rests against the outside of the left leg, back of the left hand down.

To Pass a Round to No. 4.

924. When he passes a round to No. 4, No. 5 places the right hand under the center of the cartridge case and the left hand under the center of the projectile, backs of both hands down. The round is held horizontally and well away from the body, the base of the cartridge case being presented to No. 4. No. 4 receives the round by passing his left arm under the right arm of No. 5, grasping the round between the hands of No. 5, at the same time grasping the base of the cartridge case with the right hand.

Section IX.—Duties of Nos. 6 and 7.

925. Nos. 6 and 7 have no specific duties in the service of the piece after it is established in position. They act as spare cannoneers.

926. Upon going into action, Nos. 6 and 7 are utilized for the construction of concealment for the carriages, for line guards on the telephone lines, for the resupply of ammunition, etc. This work is done under the immediate supervision of the executive or his assistant.

Section X.—Combined Training at the Piece and at the Caisson.

927. The duties of the gunner and Nos. 1 and 2 are mutually dependent. So also are those of Nos. 3, 4, and 5. Hence, it is advisable, at an early stage of instruction, to train each of these combinations separately. The same practice may be used to advantage from time to time after the drill of the gun squads in the firing battery has been taken up.

928. After the cannoneers are thoroughly instructed they are permanently assigned to those positions in which they have shown themselves most capable.

Digitized by Google

CHAPTER III.—EXERCISES PRELIMINARY TO INSTRUCTION OF THE FIRING BATTERY.

SECTION I.—GENERAL PROVISIONS.

929. Coincident with instruction in their individual duties and in matériel, the recruits are taught the composition and formation of the gun squad and its duties in all those exercises which are preliminary to the establishment of the guns in position to fire (**170–203**).

930. The efficient service of the gun depends upon the orderly cooperation of the members of the gun squad, as well as upon the skill of the individual cannoneers. The habit of combined effort must hence be acquired.

931. An alert and soldierly manner is exacted of the cannoneers. Accuracy and exactness are the first considerations, but the cannoneers should be taught, with the acquisition of accuracy to perform their duties briskly and rapidly. The object in view is the gradual development of great rapidity of service without reduction of accuracy. To delay too long in pushing the development of rapidity leads to inattention, slovenly service, and an actual loss of accuracy. On the other hand, striving for rapidity before the training has sufficiently progressed, is certain to result in great and frequent errors.

932. On account of their value in developing the recruit, fixing his attention, improving his control over mind and muscles, and varying the monotony of instruction, the training of recruits in the exercise of the gun squad should begin after the first two or three days of individual instruction.

933. Movements of the carriages by hand, the formation of the gun squads, the posting of the cannoneers, mounting and dismounting, etc., are of value in developing the alertness of the recruits, if it is insisted that such movements be performed at the double time and smartly. As the training progresses, the command for one of these exercises should more and more closely follow the execution of the previous one. The older

Digitized by Google

men also must be frequently exercised in such movements, if the smartness of the gun squads is to be preserved.

934. Steps must be taken to make the position of cannoneer attractive and to encourage the gun squads to develop team work to the utmost.

935. In the instruction of the gun squads it is usually best to exercise four squads as a firing battery. When practicable, chiefs of section should be present at all drills of gun squads.

The battery commander should frequently conduct the drill of the gun squads to the end that the men may become accustomed to his voice and method of giving commands. In any event the drill must be under the direct supervision of an experienced and capable officer. This training is too important to trust it to an inexperienced officer except under the closest supervision.

936. When for any reason it is desirable to drill less than four gun squads, the commands and methods are similar to those for the complete firing battery.

SECTION II.—TO MOVE BY HAND THE CARRIAGES UNLIMBERED.

937. 1. **Pieces (Caissons) forward (backward),** 2. **MARCH,** 3. **HALT.**

Each piece: The gunner and No. 2 grasp the trail handles, the gunner the left, No. 2 the right handle; Nos. 1 and 3 the right and left wheels, respectively; Nos. 4 and 5 place themselves so as to work advantageously at the breech of the gun in moving forward, at the muzzle in moving backward. Nos. 6 and 7 assist at the nearest wheels. At the command **march,** all working together move the carriage in the direction indicated. At the command **halt,** they stop the carriage and resume their posts.

Each caisson: Executed as explained for the piece, except that Nos. 4 and 5 are at the trail of the caisson and that the gunner and No. 2 work in rear of the caisson chest in moving to the front, against the footboards in moving to the rear.

Digitized by Google

SECTION III.—PREPARATION FOR ACTION AND MARCH ORDER.

To Prepare for Action.

938. The carriages being in position unlimbered: **PREPARE FOR ACTION.**

Each member of the gun squad performs his duties in the order given below:

Gunner: (*a*) Removes the hood from the sight bracket;

(*b*) Releases the traversing and elevating lock and operates the traversing and elevating gear;

(*c*) Removes the sight shank from its case and places it in its socket, setting the range at 3,000 and the peep sight deflection at zero;

(*d*) Takes the panoramic sight from its case and places it in its seat, making sure that the sight is clamped and that the deflection is set at zero;

(*e*) Raises and secures the top shield, with the assistance of No. 1;

(*f*) Seats himself on his seat.

No. 1: (*a*) Removes the quadrant from its case and places it in its seat; centers the cross level bubble;

(*b*) Sets the range at 3,000 and the sight at 300, and brings the range bubble to the center;

(*c*) Equips himself with a lanyard and a wiping cloth;

(*d*) Operates the breech mechanism, examines the breech block, bore, and chamber, cleaning any parts requiring it, leaving the breech open, except when the gun is loaded;

(*e*) Assists the gunner in raising and securing the top shield;

(*f*) Seats himself on his seat.

No. 2: (*a*) Removes the breech cover;

(*b*) Turns back the trail handspike and engages it;

(*c*) Runs around to the right of the piece and tssists No. 8 to lower the piece apron;

(*d*) Distributes tow or waste to the connoneers for use in their ears;

(*e*) Seats himself on the handspike.

Digitized by Google

No. 3: (*a*) Runs around the left of the caisson and removes the muzzle cover;

(*b*) Removes the front sight cover and adjusts the sight in its firing position;

(*c*) Lowers the piece apron, with the assistance of No. 2;

(*d*) Seats himself at the fuze setter, with his back to the right caisson wheel;

(*e*) Sets his scales at corrector 30, range 3000.

No. 4: (*a*) Assisted by No. 5, lowers the caisson apron;

(*b*) Lowers the fuze setter;

(*c*) Assisted by No. 5, raises the caisson door;

(*d*) Stands ready to serve ammunition.

No. 5: (*a*) Assists No. 4 to lower the caisson apron;

(*b*) Assists No. 4 to raise the caisson door;

(*c*) Puts a round of shrapnel in the fuze setter, setting the fuze;

(*d*) Stands ready to serve ammunition.

The cannoneers report to their chief of section if any parts of the matériel are not in working order.

939. The carriages, limbered, are habitually prepared for action before reaching the firing position. The duties of the cannoneers are the same as at the carriages unlimbered, except that after the examination of the elevating and traversing gear the piece is secured by the traveling lock; the trail handspike is not turned back; the breech is closed; the firing pin is released; the fuze setter is not lowered, nor is a round put in the fuze setter; the apron is not lowered; the caisson door is left closed; and the cannoneers do not take their posts for serving the gun. The gunner and No. 1 return the panoramic sight and the quadrant to their cases, unless special orders to the contrary are given.

Immediately after establishing the carriages the preparation for action is completed without command and the cannoneers take their posts for serving the piece.

940. If prepare for action has not been given before establishing the carriages in the firing position, that command is habitually given by each chief of section as soon as his carriages have been unlimbered and established. The instructor

Digitized by Google

may, however, caution **do not prepare for action** when he wishes to drill the personnel in limbering and unlimbering only or in the details of preparation for action.

Posts of the Cannoneers, Carriages Unlimbered and Prepared for Action.

941. In each squad, the gunner, seated on his seat facing the gun.

No. 1, seated astride his seat facing the gun.

No. 2, seated astride the trail handspike near the trail.

No. 3, seated with his back to the inside of the right caisson wheel, facing the bracket fuze setter, legs extended one on each side of the fuze setter.

Nos. 4 and 5, in rear of the caisson in a convenient position for the performance of their duties.

Nos. 6 and 7, abreast and in order from right to left, 5 yards in rear of the trail spade of their piece, awaiting orders.

Higher numbered cannoneers, if present, accompany the limbers.

In the Horse Artillery the two highest numbered cannoneers act as horse holders and take the lead horses to the rear with the limbers.

To Resume the Order for Marching.

942. The carriages being prepared for action, to resume the order for marching: **MARCH ORDER.**

Each member of the gun squad performs his duties in the order given below:

Gunner: (*a*) Lowers and secures the top shield, with the assistance of No. 1;

(*b*) Sees that the deflection reading is zero, returns the panoramic sight to its case and secures the case;

(*c*) Replaces the cover on the sight shank and returns it to the trail box;

(*d*) Traverses and elevates the piece to the traveling position and fastens the traveling lock;

Digitized by Google

(*e*) Secures the hood over the sight bracket.

(*f*) Takes his post.

No. 1: (*a*) Assists the gunner in lowering and securing the top shield;

(*b*) Closes the breach; releases the firing pin;

(*c*) Returns the lanyard and wiping cloth to the trail box;

(*d*) Sets the range at 3000 and the site at 300;

(*e*) Returns the quadrant to its case and secures the case;

(*f*) Takes his post.

No. 2: (*a*) Assists No. 3 to raise and secure the piece apron;

(*b*) Turns down and secures the trail handspike;

(*c*) Replaces the breech cover and secures it;

(*d*) Takes his post.

No. 3: (*a*) Sees that the fuze of any round whose fuze has been set, is set back at safety;

(*b*) Sets fuze setter at range 3000, corrector 30;

(*c*) Raises and secures the piece apron, with the assistance of No. 1;

(*d*) Replaces the front-sight cover and adjusts the front sight in the traveling position;

(*e*) Replaces and secures the muzzle cover;

(*f*) Takes his post.

No. 4: (*a*) Assists in setting fuzes back at safety;

(*b*) Passes the round to No. 5;

(*c*) Assisted by No. 5, lowers and secures the caisson door;

(*d*) Raises and secures the fuze setter;

(*e*) Assisted by No. 5, raises and secures the caisson apron;

(*f*) Takes his post.

No. 5: (*a*) Receives ammunition from No. 4 and stores it in the chest;

(*b*) Assists No. 4 to lower and secure the caisson door;

(*c*) Assists No. 4 to raise and secure the caisson apron;

(*d*) Takes his post.

If it is intended to resume the fire, but in another position, so that the limbering of the carriage is necessitated, the command **MARCH ORDER** is not given. At the command for limbering the carriages are placed in the order described in peragraph **939**.

Digitized by Google

943. If the situation is such as to make it probable that the guns will have to defend themselves from close attack the command sights for fire at will may be added either to the command for preparation for action or to that for resuming the march order. At such command, the gunner sets deflection zero, range 1000; No. 3 sets corrector 30, range zero.

CHAPTER IV.—THE FIRING BATTERY AND THE DUTIES OF ITS GUN SQUADS.

SECTION I.—COMPOSITION, FORMATION, AND INSTRUCTION OF THE FIRING BATTERY.

944. The firing battery comprises the guns and caissons of the first five sections of the battery, with the personnel and animals assigned to their immediate service. It is under the direct command, or orders, of the captain. The most suitable lieutenants (**32**) of the battery is selected for the immediate command of the firing battery when the battery commander is at some distance from the guns, and for the immediate supervision of the gun squads when the battery commander is near enough to the guns to give his orders and commands by word of mouth. This lieutenant is the executive. When the number of lieutenants present permits, the executive has a junior lieutenant assigned to him as assistant.

945. For the instruction of recruits the drill of the gun squads is at first carried on in the park. Later the instruction of the firing battery is carried on over all forms of terrain available.

In the field it is desirable that the guns be placed approximately in line with regular intervals of approximately 17 yards between adjacent gun wheels. It is more important that the intervals be regular than that they be exactly 17 yards. Each chief of section cautions (Such) piece, or, No. (So-and-so), as soon as his carriages have been established in position (**47**).

In the park the limbered carriages are formed in line or column of double sections, the caisson of each section being alongside of and at two yards interval from its piece, at such

Digitized by Google

intervals or distances between sections as may be practicable. By the execution of action front (rear, right, or left) the carriages are placed in line in the firing position at sufficient intervals for the drill of the gun squads.

946. At the commencement of training of recruits in their duties in the firing battery, their instruction in the elementary principles of gunnery contained in this chapter will be begun. As the instruction progresses and the recruits are divided into classes, each class should be instructed in so much of the principles involved in Service Firing as the men of the particular class can thoroughly grasp.

SECTION II.—DUTIES IN GENERAL OF OFFICERS OF THE FIRING BATTERY AND OF THE NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS OF THE GUN SECTIONS.

947. Captain:

Commands the firing battery and, as a rule, conducts the fire.

948. The executive:

1. Usually conducts the firing battery to and establishes it in the firing position. Causes such measures to be taken as will facilitate the rapid opening of accurate fire. Sees to the preparation of all practicable protection for the personnel in addition to that provided by the shields.

2. Exercises immediate command of, or supervision over, the battery in the firing position.

3. Repeats all firing data when the captain is not near enough the battery to command it by voice.

4. Gives the command for commencing firing whether the captain be at the battery or not. The command by the executive is Fire. It is usually accompanied by a signal made by bringing the extended right arm from a vertical position sharply to the side. For salvos the executive gives the command fire as soon as he sees that all the pieces will be ready to fire in their proper turn. For volleys he may give the command fire immediately after the range has been announced or he may wait until all the pieces are ready, according to the instructions of the captain.

Digitized by Google

5. Assisted by the chief mechanic attends to the resupply of ammunition, under such general instructions as the captain may give.

6. Has charge of the replacement of casualties.

949. Assistant to the executive:

Assists the executive in the supervision of the gun sections, especially when difficulties or errors occur in a gun squad.

950. Chief of gun section:

1. Commands his section.

2. Makes sure of the identification of his part of the target or of the aiming point.

3. Keeps informed of the firing data so as to be able to repeat any parts not understood by the cannoneers but does not repeat anything unless it is called for by a subordinate. If a chief of section does not understand any item of the firing data he asks the executive for it thus: Site? Corrector? etc.

4. In indirect laying whenever the trail has to be shifted, puts the gunner approximately on the aiming point by glancing along one side of the rotating head of the panoramic sight and causing the trail to be shifted until the side of the rotating head is in line with the aiming point (**897**).

5. Commands **with the lanyard** for the first shot when the ground is such that the trail spade is not easily seated, and sees that all the cannoneers step clear of the piece for the first shot.

6. Extends his right arm vertically as soon as the gunner has called **ready**, so as to indicate to the executive officer that the piece is ready to fire. The right arm is held vertical until his gunner commands **fire.**

7. Supervises and is responsible for all the details of correct service by his gun squad.

951. Gunner:

1. Performs his duties in the gun squad.

2. Commands **muzzle right (left)** when he has reached the limit of traverse of the gun on the carriage.

3. Commands **fire** so that his piece will be fired, **after having been accurately laid,** at the proper time.

Digitized by Google

SECTION III.—MEASURES FOR FACILITATING THE RAPID OPENING OF FIRE.

952. Early opening of effective fire is facilitated by accurate establishment of the firing battery in the firing position without undue haste or confusion. To this end all officers, noncommissioned officers, and men will take particular care that the carriages are regularly and methodically established and quickly prepared for action. Commands are to be given by the proper individuals. Unnecessary conversations and laxity in the work of getting the guns into position leads to delay and poor fire discipline.

953. If fire is not to be opened immediately upon occupying the position, a semicircular trench should be dug for the trail spade. If fire is opened at once it is always advisable to dig such a trench during the lulls in firing. Such a measure gives great facility in shifting the trail and is especially valuable in firing at moving targets.

954. The targets for light field guns are most frequently at a site of about 300 and at ranges near 3,000 yards. Hence the setting of sights, quadrants, and fuze setters at **Site 300, Corrector 30, Range 3000,** in the absence of exact data, and the leveling of instruments tend to hasten the opening of fire. If indirect laying is to be used the aiming point is usually known as soon as the carriages are unlimbered.

Since the front of the battery is usually established about perpendicular to the direction in which fire is to be delivered, the head of the panoramic sight should be turned on the aiming point as soon as the gun, prepared for action, is fully established in its position.

It is frequently practicable to communicate most of the firing data and to set the instruments before occupying a position, or at least some time before the fire is to be opened.

If no target is visible or none has been assigned to the battery when the position is occupied, the captain selects a prominent point near the center of the sector he is to cover and causes the guns to be laid upon it.

Digitized by Google

SECTION IV.—DEFLECTION AND DEFLECTION DIFFERENCE.

955. Each gun in the battery must be so pointed that its projectile will fall in the direction of its part of the target.

956. The direction of each gun may be given by setting the sight at zero, then bringing the cross hairs on the target by shifting the trail and traversing the gun on the carriage.

Or, the direction of the gun may be given by setting the sight at a reading, called the **deflection**, previously determined and then bringing the vertical cross hair on a designated aiming point by shifting the trail and traversing the gun on its carriage.

957. When the guns are laid for direction by bringing the cross hairs on the target, each gunner sights at and his projectiles should fall on his own part of the target.

When the guns are laid for direction by bringing the vertical cross hairs on an aiming point it is usually necessary to give the guns different deflections in order that each piece may be brought on its own part of the target. The difference in deflections is called the **deflection difference.** It is usually small and is the same for any two adjacent pieces.

958. By **opening out** the guns like a fan, the front covered by the fire is increased; by **closing in** the guns, the front covered may be decreased. By increasing or diminishing the deflection difference, therefore, the front on which the projectiles fall may be increased or decreased at will.

The lines of fire of several pieces collectively directed form the **sheaf of fire.**

959. When an aiming point is used, the captain, assisted by his battery detail, determines the deflection for one of the pieces and the amount by which the other pieces must be opened out or closed in on this one in order that the shots may fall on the front desired.

The piece for which the deflection is determined or on which the others are to close or open is indicated by the number of the piece given in the command: **On (such) piece, Open (close) (so much).** This piece is called the **directing piece.**

Digitized by Google

960. Since the deflection difference for any two adjacent pieces is the same, each gunner must multiply the deflection difference by the number of gun intervals between his piece and the directing piece in order to find the amount by which his deflection will differ from that of the directing piece.

961. The gunner of the directing piece does not change his deflection on account of the deflection difference.

In order to open out the sheaf the guns on the right of the directing piece must have their muzzles moved to the right and those on the left of the directing piece must have their muzzles moved to the left. Since decreasing the deflection moves the muzzle to the right and throws the shot to the right, each gunner on the right of the directing piece, in order to open the sheaf, must multiply the deflection difference by his number of intervals from the directing piece and subtract the result from the deflection announced. Since increasing the deflection moves the muzzle to the left and throws the shot to the left, each gunner on the left of the directing piece, in order to open the sheaf, must multiply the deflection difference by his number of intervals from the directing piece and add this result to the deflection announced.

962. Conversely, to close the sheaf on the directing piece, the gunners on the right must increase the deflection or add to it so as to throw the muzzles of their guns toward the directing piece, while those on the left must decrease the deflection or subtract from it in order to throw their muzzles toward the directing piece.

963. When the aiming point is in certain positions it may happen that the fire will be properly distributed on the target when the deflection of all the pieces is the same, or when the deflection difference is zero. The absence of any command **open** or **close** is the indication that all the pieces are to be laid with the same deflection.

964. After the first or subsequent firing, one of the guns may be directed on its part of the target while the others are not. In such cases the captain does not change the deflection but brings all the guns on the target by opening or closing on the gun which has the proper direction.

Digitized by Google

965. The gunners are trained in setting off the corrected deflection individually as well as during the instruction of the gun squads.

For example: 1. Deflection 1620, 2. On 1st piece, Open 10. All the gunners set 1620 as soon as it is announced. As soon as **On 1st piece, Open 10** is given the gunner of the 2d piece multiplies 10 by his interval (one) and adds the result (10) to 1620, and accordingly sets 1630. The gunner of the 3d piece multiplies 10 by his interval (two) and adds the result (20) to 1620, and accordingly sets 1640. The gunner of the 4th piece multiplies 10 by his interval (three) and adds the result (30) to 1620, and accordingly sets 1650.

The sights being set as above, for example, the command may be: **On 3d piece, Close 5.** The third piece becomes the directing piece and its gunner leaves his sight reading at 1640. The gunner of the 4th piece multiplies 5 by his interval (one), subtracts the result (5) from 1650, and accordingly sets 1645. The gunner of the 2d piece multiplies his interval (one) by 5, adds the result (5) to 1630, and accordingly sets 1635. The gunner of the 1st piece multiplies his interval (two) by 5, adds the result (10) to 1620, and accordingly sets 1630.

The instructor verifies the settings.

966. It is most important that all the gunners first set the deflection ordered and then apply the deflection difference. This method avoids errors and results in greater rapidity than is obtained should the gunner attempt to make all of his calculations and then to set off the resulting deflection.

967. It may be that the aiming point can be seen from only one piece. In such cases the executive, after announcing the deflection, commands: **Lay on (Such) piece,** designating the piece from which the aiming point can be seen. At this command each chief of section, except that of the piece designated, causes his gunner to turn his sight in the direction of the designated piece and his No. 2 to extend the rammer staff vertically in front of the object glass of the sight. The designated piece having been accurately laid at the indicated deflection, its chief of section causes the gunner to turn his sight, without traversing the piece, so that the vertical hair will

Digitized by Google

bisect the rammer staff at the other pieces in succession and announces the reading, thus: **No. (So and so), (So much).** The chief of section of the piece which can see the aiming point then causes No. 2 to extend his rammer staff vertically alongside the sight.

As the reading for his piece is called off, each chief of section who is unable to see the aiming point substracts 3,200 from the reading announced if he is on the left of the piece from which the aiming point can be seen, or adds 3,200 to the reading if he is on the right. He then causes the gunner to set his sight according to the result thus obtained and to lay on the rammer staff at the designated piece. This results in the guns being laid so that the axes of the bores are parallel.

Each chief of section then selects his own aiming point and causes the gunner to measure the deflection (**959**).

968. The necessity for taking full advantage of cover for the concealment of the guns, especially from aircraft, may sometimes make it impossible to utilize a common aiming point or to see one piece from another. In such cases the executive causes the pieces to be pointed, by the compass or other means, as nearly as may be in the proper direction. One of the pieces is selected to fire a single round of time shrapnel so as to give a burst about 10 mils above the horizon visible from the guns and at as great a range as practicable. The remaining pieces are so elevated and the sights are so set as to enable each gunner quickly to turn the rotating head of his panoramic sight upon the burst without disturbing the laying of the piece. Each chief of section, having noted the deflection, causes the gunner to turn the sight on any suitable aiming point without disturbing the laying. The reading on the aiming point selected is then diminished by the reading on the burst if this latter reading was less than 3,200. If the reading on the burst was greater than 3,200 the reading on the selected aiming point is increased by the difference between the burst setting and 6,400. The deflection obtained by making the corrections just indicated is then set off on each sight and each gunner brings his cross hairs on the aiming point selected by traversing the piece. This results in the

Digitized by Google

pieces all being laid on the point of burst of the shot fired. By suitable commands for opening the captain forms the sheaf.

969. Having once formed the sheaf, the captain may change its direction by announcing a new deflection or by the command: **Right (Left), (So much).** At the command, for example, **Right 30,** each gunner **subtracts** 30 from his deflection, sets his sight at the new deflection, and brings his vertical cross hair on the aiming point by traversing the piece. Each gunner has then moved the muzzle of his gun to the **right** through an angle of 30 mils. Similarly, if the command be **Left 30** each gunner **adds** 30.

970. The direction and distribution may be changed simultaneously. At the command, for example, **1. Left 30, 2. On 1st piece, Close 5,** each gunner first adds 30, and then applies the deflection difference (**965**). Having set off his correct deflection, each gunner brings his vertical cross hair on the aiming point by traversing the piece.

971. In order properly to distribute the fire, it is sometimes necessary to change the deflection of a single piece while leaving the others unchanged. The captain commands, for example, **(Such) piece, Right (Left), (So much).** The deflection of the designated piece only is changed as indicated in the command.

Section V.—Range and Sight.

972. As the distance from the guns to the target increases the guns must be pointed more and more above the line joining the gun and the target in order that the projectile may reach the target.

973. Since targets are not always at the level of the gun, but are frequently above or below this level, the actual inclination of the gun to the horizontal when the gun is laid on a target is not the elevation due to range of the target only, but is a combination of this elevation due to range and of the difference of level between the target and the gun. When the gunner sets his sight shank at the correct range and, looking through the sight, brings the horizontal hair on the bottom of the target he automatically gives the gun the correct elevation above the line

Digitized by Google

joining the gun and the target. This elevation of the gun above the line from the gun to the target is affected by the range only, and does not vary with the height of the target.

974. When the gunner does not sight directly at the target, but lays the gun for direction by sighting at an aiming point, the gun elevation must be given by the quadrant. The quadrant, therefore, has devices by which the angular elevation due to range may be set off and by which to make allowance for the difference in level between the gun and the target.

The first is accomplished by the range disk, the operator setting the range announced opposite the index.

The second is accomplished by the site device, which the operator has only to set at the value announced.

The range and site data having been set off on the quadrant and the quadrant being in place on the gun, the operator elevates or depresses the gun until the bubble of the elevation level is centered. The proper combination of these two angular values is thus automatically made and the gun has the proper inclination to the horizontal to cause the projectile to reach the target.

975. The site is announced by the captain, **Site (So and so).**

Since the guns of a battery are usually on nearly the same level the site is usually the same for all the guns. Sometimes, however, it becomes necessary to give a different site to the several guns. In such cases the captain commands: **Site, No. 1 (So and so)**; **No. 2 (So and so)**; etc. The gunner of each piece sets the site indicated for his particular piece.

976. The range is announced for each salvo or volley.

Section VI.—Projectiles, Fuzes, Kinds of Fire.

977. There are two kinds of projectiles for the 3-inch field gun: **shell** and **shrapnel.** There are also two kinds of shrapnel: **common** and **high explosive.**

978. The **shell** consists of a steel case with a bursting charge of high explosive which detonates upon striking.

The **common shrapnel** consists of a steel case containing about 250 bullets and a bursting charge of black powder in the base.

Digitized by Google

The **high-explosive shrapnel** (H. E. shrapnel) is similar to the common shrapnel, except that it contains not only the base charge but a high explosive intermingled with the shrapnel bullets. This shrapnel is fitted with a fuze that causes the high explosive to detonate upon striking.

If either the common or the high-explosive shrapnel bursts in air the case is not ruptured, but the base charge forces the nose off the shrapnel case and expels the bullets to the front in the general shape of a cone, called the **shrapnel cone.**

979. With respect to the instant at which the projectiles burst, fire is classified as **percussion** fire and **time** fire.

In **percussion** fire the projectile bursts when it strikes; the burst is then said to be **on impact.**

In **time** fire the projectile bursts in the air before reaching the ground.

980. Bursts on impact are secured by a fuze which explodes the bursting charge upon striking. Such a fuze is a **percussion** fuze. It does not have to be set but is always ready to act after the projectile is fired.

981. Bursts in the air are secured by a fuze which can be set to explode the base charge at any time after the projectile is fired. Such a fuze is a **time** fuze. It contains a powder train which starts burning at the instant when the projectile is fired and, when the fuze is set, burns down to the base charge in a period of time dependent on the setting.

982. For convenience the fuze setter for setting the time fuze is graduated in range. But due to errors of the fuze and other causes the base charge will not always explode at exactly the range set off. Moreover, it is sometimes necessary to vary the height of burst. For this the fuze setter is arranged to permit changing the fuze setting without changing the range reading on the fuze setter. The device for accomplishing this is called **the corrector.** A corrector of about 30 ordinarily gives a height of burst of about 3 mils as seen from the guns. This height of burst is called **normal.** Raising the corrector **shortens** the part of the time train which must burn before the base charge is reached and therefore **raises** the height of burst.

Digitized by Google

Lowering the corrector **lengthens** the time of burning and **lowers** the height of burst.

983. All shells are provided with **percussion** fuzes only.

All shrapnel are provided with **combination** fuzes containing both percussion and time elements. The percussion element acts if the time element has not acted before the projectile strikes. If the combination fuze be set at safety the time element can not act but the percussion element may.

984. The gun squads must know the kind of projectile and the fuze which are to be used. This is indicated to them by the commands: **Shell**; or, **Percussion**; or, **Corrector (So much)**; or, **Up (Down) (So much)**. The command **shell** indicates that shell are to be used. The command **percussion** indicates that shrapnel for percussion fire are to be used. Since shrapnel for percussion fire must have their fuzes set at safety and since the fuzes are carried at that setting in the chest, it is not necessary to use the fuze setter when the command **percussion** is given; but, as the gun squads must be ready to change from percussion to time fire, No. 3 always sets his range scale at the last range announced.

Corrector (So much); or, **Up (Down) (So much)** indicates time fire with shrapnel and that the fuzes must be set.

SECTION VII.—METHODS OF LAYING.

985. When it is possible for the gunner to see the target clearly and to aim directly upon the part of it which the fire of his gun is intended to reach, the gun may be laid by the gunner for both range and direction. This is called **direct laying.**

986. When it is impracticable for the gunner to aim directly upon the part of the target which the fire of his gun is intended to reach, the gun is laid by him for direction only. In this case an aiming point which can be clearly seen by the gunner is designated and a suitable deflection given, such that, when the line of sight is directed upon the aiming point, the gun will be directed upon the target. This is called **indirect laying.**

Digitized by Google

987. For direct laying, the target must be distinctly visible through the sights; the guns must therefore be more or less exposed. For indirect laying the target need not be visible to the gunners; the guns may therefore be concealed. For these reasons and because indirect laying leaves to the captain complete independence in the manipulation of the sheaf of fire and ordinarily results in great regularity of heights of burst, ranges, and distribution, it is the usual method.

988. In firing at aerial targets or at small targets moving rapidly, direct laying is advantageous because corrections for site are eliminated and changes in deflection are automatically made by keeping the cross hairs on the target.

In firing at large moving targets or at small targets slowly moving, indirect laying may be used with great facility.

SECTION VIII.—FIRE FOR ADJUSTMENT; FIRE FOR EFFECT; ACCURACY.

989. It is usually impossible to determine before firing the exact laying which will certainly give hits on the target. It is therefore necessary to correct the laying according to the captain's observation of the bursts with reference to the target. The first part of the fire at any target is accordingly conducted so as to facilitate observation. Such fire is called **fire for adjustment.**

990. The fire must always be adjusted in direction, in distribution, and in range. In time fire the height of burst must also be adjusted.

As a rule, the direction, distribution, and height of burst may be quite accurately observed and adjusted by making changes in the deflection, deflection difference, and corrector. Adjustment of the range is more difficult. It is usually impossible to determine a single range which will surely give hits on the target. On this account it is generally best to determine two ranges, one of which gives bursts short of the target and one of which gives bursts beyond the target. The determination of these two ranges is called **bracketing** the target. The difference between the two ranges is called the **bracket.**

Digitized by Google

991. Having obtained the adjustment, fire is opened at ranges and, in time fire, at a height of burst which will surely give hits on the target. This is called **fire for effect.**

992. The greatest difficulties in obtaining adjustment and the principal cause of lack of effect arise from errors in the fire. Such errors are due to inaccuracies of the personnel, to atmospheric changes, and to imperfections of matériel and ammunition. Even though the laying be exact, a single gun will not shoot precisely in the same place each time it is fired.

Inaccuracies due to the personnel are usually much greater than those due to the matériel. They result from errors in laying; from failure to set the scales exactly as ordered or to center the bubbles; from not noticing and correcting any derangement of the laying due to loading or of the settings due to firing; from not turning the projectile in the fuze setter in the proper manner; and from similar mistakes.

993. Rapidity of fire without accuracy is unprofitable. Accuracy slowly obtained must often result in lack of effect, because the enemy will have time to shelter himself from the fire. The ideal is accuracy with rapidity. This ideal can be attained by at first insisting on accuracy without regard to speed and by thereafter gradually developing it through persistent drill of the gun squads in the firing battery.

994. It must be realized that all men are likely to make mistakes. In order that the captain may not be misled, all members of the gun squads should be encouraged to detect and to report at once any errors that are made. The causes of these should be sought and reported in order that methods and matériel may be so improved as to reduce the number and effect of personnel errors.

SECTION IX.—METHODS OF FIRE.

995. The methods of fire are **fire by salvo, volley fire, volley-fire sweeping,** and **fire at will.** The use of salvos and volleys is habitual and both natures of fire are ordinarily used in firing at each target, particularly in time fire. Volley-fire sweeping is employed during fire for effect. Fire at will is exceptional, being used only for the close defense of the guns.

Digitized by Google

Salvos.

996. The command for a battery salvo is: **Battery right (left).** Upon the command **fire** by the executive the pieces are fired, at the command of the gunners, in order from the right at intervals of about two seconds.

997. The command for a platoon salvo is: **Right right (left),** or, **Left left (right).**

The first word of the command designates the platoon which is to fire.

If the command be **right right (left)** the first and second pieces only are loaded. Similarly, if the command be **left left (right)** the third and fourth pieces only are loaded.

The second word of the command indicates the flank from which the pieces designated are to be successively fired. Upon the command **fire,** by the executive, the pieces designated are fired, at the command of their gunners, in the order indicated at an interval of about two seconds.

998. The interval of two seconds may be increased by cautioning, after the command for the salvo, **At (so many) seconds.** The interval thus prescribed will be used as long as salvos are fired until another interval is announced.

999. Occasionally it may be desirable to fire each piece at the specific command of the captain. The captain cautions: **At my command.** Each piece is then fired upon the command by the captain: **No. (So-and-so) Fire,** each gunner repeating the command **fire** when his piece is designated.

1000. In certain cases it may be desirable to fire a single piece. The captain commands: **(Such) piece only.** The designated piece only is loaded and it is fired upon the command **fire** by the executive.

1001. When the method of fire is by platoon salvo or by piece, the gun squads of the pieces which are not to take part in the firing keep all the instruments set and the pieces laid in accordance with the commands. All the guns are thus able to open fire immediately. To change from platoon salvos, or fire by single piece, to battery salvos, the command is: **Battery right**

Digitized by Google

(left). All of the pieces take up the fire in succession from the flank indicated.

1002. Salvos are particularly suitable for fire for adjustment on account of the facility with which the bursts may be observed.

Volley Fire.

1003. The command for battery volleys is: **Battery (So many) rounds.** Upon the command **fire** by the executive, each piece fires the designated number of rounds as rapidly as possible consistent with accuracy and without regard to the other pieces. To make certain that the correct number of rounds is fired, each No. 4 as he loads the piece calls out the range and the number of the round. As the last round ordered is loaded, he adds: **Last round.** Thus, the command being **Battery 2 rounds, 3200.** On loading the first round, each No. 4 calls **3200, One**; on loading the second round, each No. 4 calls **3200, Two; Last round.**

1004. In exceptional cases it may be desirable to use one platoon only in volley fire. In such cases the command is: **Right (Left), (So many) rounds.** Only the pieces in the designated platoon are loaded and fired.

1005. Volley fire is particularly suitable for fire for effect on account of the rapidity with which it may be delivered.

Volley-fire sweeping.

1006. The purpose of sweeping is to distribute the fire over a wide front. It consists in changing the direction of each piece between shots.

This may be accomplished mechanically by a full turn of the traversing handwheel between rounds if there is not material lost motion in the mechanism. Or, if the reticule of the panoramic sight is provided with a horizontal scale, the line of sight may be shifted through an appropriate angle.

1007. The commands for sweeping are: **Battery (So many) rounds, sweeping,** or, **Right (Left), (So many) rounds, sweeping.** The execution is the same as that of volley fire (**1003–1005**)

Digitized by Google

in every respect, except that after the first and each succeeding round of the sweep the gunner traverses the piece to the left by one full turn of the traversing handwheel, disregarding accurate laying in direction; or, if the reticule of the sight has a horizontal scale, instead of turning the handwheel he shifts the line of sight 10 mils to the left for ranges up to 2,500 yards, 5 mils for ranges exceeding 2,500 yards (**1376–1380**).

As soon as the last round of the sweep has been fired, the gunner traverses the piece back to the right until the line of sight is again on the right of his portion of the target or on the aiming point.

Fire at will.

1008. For the very close defense of the guns the command is: 1. **Target (So-and-so)**, 2. **FIRE AT WILL.** At this command sights are set at deflection zero and range 1000. Fuze setters are set at corrector 30 and range zero. Shrapnel only are used. Each gun is loaded and laid on the target. Upon the command **fire** by the executive, each gun is fired as rapidly as possible until the command **cease firing** or until the target disappears or actually reaches the gun. In fire at will, the gunner neglects all refinements of laying, rapidity in this case being of more importance than great accuracy.

Section X.—Classes of Targets, Appropriate Methods of Fire and Brackets.

1009. Targets are classified with reference to their nature as **artillery, infantry, machine guns,** etc. They are also classified according to their movement, or power to move, as **fixed** or **stationary, transient,** and **moving.** All of these may, of course, vary as to size and as to degree of movement.

1010. Fixed, or stationary, targets are targets which are fixed to their position for at least a considerable time. Examples of such targets are buildings, trenches, artillery in position, troops held under cover by fire.

Transient targets are those which while fully exposed to fire are likely to remain so for a very brief time. Examples of

Digitized by Google

such targets are infantry skirmish lines, machine guns, observation parties.

Moving targets are those which are changing their location. Examples of slowly moving targets are large bodies of troops on the march, infantry whether on the march or advancing to the attack, wagon trains on the march. Examples of rapidly moving targets are artillery at fast gaits, charging cavalry, cavalry at fast gaits, small bodies of mounted men, motor cars.

1011. Against all fixed targets salvos are ordinarily used in fire for adjustment, which is usually continued until a suitable bracket has been obtained.

1012. Against transient targets it is necessary to be content with a wider bracket. In extreme cases it may be desirable to assume a bracket of considerable depth based on the observation of the first bursts. Transient targets are usually attacked with shrapnel. Salvos are usually appropriate during fire for adjustment. Volleys are used in fire for effect.

1013. Slowly moving targets or long targets moving across the line of fire are attacked by shrapnel in the same manner as fixed targets. Either direct or indirect laying may be used. During direct laying volleys are usual during adjustment as this method gives the gunner more independence in the instant of firing, and he is better able to take advantage of the moment when the target is most visible and his laying most accurate. Volleys are used in fire for effect.

1014. Rapidly moving targets or small moving targets are attacked by shrapnel in the same manner as in the extreme case of transient targets. Volleys are ordinarily used both in fire for adjustment and in fire for effect. If the target is small indirect laying is usually ineffective.

1015. When the target is moving across the line of fire and the trail has to be shifted, the gunner traverses the muzzle of the gun as far as it will go in the direction opposed to that in which the target is moving. This enables him to take advantage of the greatest possible amount of traverse on the carriage. In shifting the trail No. 2 sights along the gun and directs it on the head of the target.

Digitized by Google

SECTION XI.—FIRING DATA AND THEIR COMMUNICATION TO THE GUN SQUADS.

1016. The firing data embrace all the information and commands necessary to enable the gun squads to accomplish the orderly, rapid, and accurate service of the pieces. To this end it is essential that the firing data be communicated to the guns in an habitual sequence. First place must be given to the element of the data most essential to commencing the service of the pieces. The sequence should favor as far as possible the completion of one operation by a particular member of the gun squad before he is required to take the data for another.

1017. The necessary data for indirect laying in their habitual sequence are—

1. The designation of the aiming point.
2. The deflection.
3. The deflection difference.
4. The site.
5. The kind of projectile (corrector, shell, or percussion shrapnel).
6. The method of fire.
7. The range.
8. The command, by the executive, **fire.**

1018. The necessary data for direct laying in their habitual sequence are—

1. The designation of the target.
2. The deflection.
3. The kind of projectile (corrector, shell, or percussion).
4. The method of fire.
5. The range.
6. The command, by the executive, **fire.**

1019. Fire at will being an exceptional and special method, in which the sight and the fuse setter have fixed settings (**1008**), and direct laying with shrapnel is always used, the only firing data necessary are the designation of the target, the method of fire, and the command **fire.**

1020. It is generally possible to communicate certain items of the data before the moment for opening fire. For example, in

Digitized by Google

indirect laying the aiming point may be designated and the approximate deflection and the deflection difference announced as soon as the guns are established.

1021. Except when the captain is near enough to the battery to make his voice heard by all the gun squads, the executive repeats all the firing data. Without awaiting any signal or command from the captain, the executive gives the command **fire** at such time after the range is announced as will insure the orderly delivery of the fire. If the captain desires to give a range without opening fire, he cautions **Do not load** before announcing the range. To load and fire he again announces the range. To suspend the fire at any time the captain commands or signals: **Cease firing.** The firing is stopped and all of the pieces are unloaded but are kept laid with the last data received. The signal for cease firing is a prolonged blast on the whistle with the right arm raised vertically until the signal is obeyed.

1022. Each gunner gives the command **fire** so that his piece will be fired at the proper time after the command **fire** by the executive. No other item of the firing data is repeated unless it is called for. When a member of a gun squad does not understand any item of the firing data he asks his chief of section for it, thus, **Site? Corrector?** etc. **(950).**

1023. The complete firing data **(1015–1018)** are always necessary before firing the first salvo or volley after occupying a position. After the first salvo or volley the captain announces only so much of the data as he desires to change, except that the range is always given as a definite signal to load and for the executive to give the command **fire** at the proper time.

In firing shell or percussion shrapnel each piece is loaded as soon as it is fired; but the range is nevertheless given as a definite signal for the executive to give the command **fire** at the proper time.

1024. In the exceptional cases in which the captain causes each piece to fire at his command, the executive repeats the command: **No. (So and so) Fire,** unless the captain is near enough to the guns to make his voice heard by all the gun squads. Each gunner cautions **fire** at the proper time.

Digitized by Google

SECTION XII.—COMBINED DUTIES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE GUN SQUADS.

1025. The duties of individuals in the gun squad are not independent but are closely related. Team work is essential to rapidity and accuracy of fire and, therefore, to its effectiveness. Each man must exactly perform his functions without interfering with other men. Each must cooperate with and assist the others in every practicable way.

1026. To attain a high quality of teamwork the most necessary requisite is a profound knowledge by each man of his own functions and facility in executing them at high speed, reinforced by a thorough understanding of the duties of each of the other members of the gun squad.

1027. In the first combined drills it is advisable to explain exactly what each man does after the announcement of each item of the firing data. After this explanation the men should be required to perform their duties precisely but slowly. As the instruction progresses, they are urged toward greater rapidity without sacrifice of precision. When the squads are working smoothly as units, the explanations are omitted. Finally the firing data are announced with as great rapidity as is consistent with distinct enunciation.

1028. In indirect laying it is not necessary for the gunner to set the range exactly. During direct laying the exact setting of the sight for range is essential. Rapidity on the part of the gunner in traversing the piece to the center of its traverse when the trail is to be shifted in indirect laying facilitates the work of the chief of section. Similarly, for direct laying at moving targets the work of No. 2 is greatly facilitated if the gunner, when the trail must be shifted, rapidly traverses the gun as far as it will go in the direction opposed to that in which the target is moving. The gunner must not interfere with the elevating mechanism in indirect laying.

1029. No. 1 helps No. 4 by opening the breech before the gun has returned into battery and by seeing that the block remains fully away from the breech. No. 1 must not interfere with the elevating mechanism during direct laying.

Digitized by Google

1030. As soon as the battery goes into position prepared for action, No. 5 inserts a round of shrapnel in the fuze setter and sets the fuze; thereafter ,he inserts another round and sets the fuze as soon as the fuze setter is empty. Whatever the kind of fire, he always has, during firing, a round of ammunition in his hands ready, in the case of time fire, to insert it in the fuze setter and set the fuze, or, in the case of percussion fire, to pass it directly to No. 4. No. 4, in percussion fire, loads the piece immediately after the breech has been opened. To this end, as soon as he has taken a round of ammunition from No. 5, he stands at the breech ready to load as soon as it has been opened. He takes care that no part of his body shall be in the way of the gun during recoil. In volley fire with time shrapnel, when more than one round is to be fired, No. 4, after giving the final setting to the fuze, stands ready as in percussion fire to load each round after the first.

1031. Whenever No. 2 requires assistance in shifting the trail, the chief of section designates the cannoneers who are to assist and the places at which they are to work.

1032. The gunner and all cannoneers who have scales to set verify their readings immediately after each shot. The gunner and No. 1 also immediately relay the piece with the settings of the previous round unless new data are received before they have time to do so.

CHAPTER V.—REPLACEMENT OF AMMUNITION AND OF CASUALTIES.

1033. The ammunition chests of the firing battery should always be kept as nearly filled as practicable. If it is probable that the position will be occupied for a considerable time, additional ammunition may be brought up and stored at suitable places near the guns.

1034. The ammunition in the caissons of the gun sections is ordinarily replenished from such ammunition as may be stored near the guns and from the caissons of the 5th section.

Digitized by Google

When the battery is not under fire this replenishment should be more or less continuous and may be carried on by Nos. 6 and 7 under the immediate supervision of the chief mechanic. When the battery is under fire, or for other reasons, it may be necessary to take advantage of lulls in the action and to utilize all the cannoneers in drawing ammunition from that stored or in the 5th section caissons.

1035. Ammunition may also be drawn from the limbers of the firing battery. This method is, however, only resorted to in emergencies when the caissons of the combat train are temporarily not available.

1036. The resupply of ammunition to the firing battery is usually carried out by the combat train. The caissons from the combat train may be brought up, unlimbered, and the empty caissons of the firing battery (except the caisson of the 5th section which carries the observation ladder) replaced with filled caissons. The empty caissons are then taken to the rear. Or, the ammunition may be taken from the caissons which are brought up and transferred to the caissons of the firing battery or to a suitable place of storage.

In either case it is usually desirable to take the ammunition from such limbers as are brought up, so as to avoid sending any ammunition to the rear.

1037. The exact method to be used in the resupply of ammunition to the firing battery depends upon the circumstances of the case. As a rule such situations as render it probable that the position will be occupied for a considerable time justify the accumulation of considerable supplies of ammunition in suitable places near the guns. In such cases the caissons from the combat train may be brought up whenever conditions permit and the ammunition transferred to the supply stored on the ground or in some improvised place.

On the other hand, conditions which make it probable that the position must soon be changed may require the exchange of caissons and may even make it desirable not to withdraw the ammunition from the limbers of the filled caissons which are brought up.

Digitized by Google

1038. Whatever the method of resupplying the firing battery from the combat train, it is desirable to use all of the men available in making the transfer so that the teams and the empty carriages may be removed from the vicinity of the guns as rapidly as possible. No fixed rule can be given for the employment of the men in this transfer. The executive gives the necessary orders for the rapid and orderly accomplishment of the work.

1039. The executive, under the direction of the captain, has charge of the replacement of casualties. Every effort must be made to prevent the personnel with any piece in action from falling below a strength of 2 noncommissioned officers and 5 privates.

1040. As a rule each casualty in officers and noncommissioned officers is replaced by the next junior available in the unit or subunit.

The captain is temporarily replaced by the senior officer or noncommissioned officer at his station, who takes over the duties of the captain, continues the action of the battery and notifies the senior officer of the casualty at the first opportunity.

Gunners and Nos. 1 and 3 are replaced by the best instructed men available.

1041. When the casualties in any gun section reduce the number of privates below five, additional duties until substitutes can be obtained from the combat train are performed as follows:

Cannoneers retained.	Distribution of duties.				
	G	1	2	3	4
G, 1, 2, 3, 4	G	1	2	3	4,5
G, 1, 2, 3	G	1	2,4,5	3	
G, 1, 2	G	1	2,3,4,5		
G, 1	G,1	2,3,4,5			

1042. In action, if casualties become excessive, the service of one or more guns may be temporarily discontinued and the cannoneers sent to assist at other places, so as to have, if

Digitized by Google

possible, a gunner and two men for the service of each piece. But, as a piece may be loaded, laid, and fired by one man, the fire of the battery must not cease so long as there are men to serve any of its guns.

1043. In order to accustom the personnel of the firing battery to replacing casualties and to serving the pieces with a reduced number of men, the captain frequently designates individuals who are to fall out. This training should not, however, be begun until the instruction of the personnel is well advanced.

CHAPTER VI.—SERVICE PRACTICE.

SECTION I.—DEFINITIONS.

1044. Angle of departure: The angle between the plane of site and the line of departure.

Angle of fall: The angle between the plane of site and the tangent to the trajectory at the point of fall.

Angle of incidence: The angle between the plane of the surface struck and the tangent to the trajectory at the point of impact.

Burst center, center of burst, or mean point of burst: The point about which the points of burst of several projectiles are evenly distributed.

Burst interval: The distance in the plane of site from the point of burst to the target.

Burst range: The distance from the muzzle of the gun to the point of burst.

Counter slope: A slope which descends toward the enemy and is wholly or partially hidden from him by the covering crest of the reverse slope.

Crest: The summit of a ridge.

Curved fire: Fire with low muzzle velocity, the elevation not exceeding 540 mils.

Danger space: The distance, in the plane of the slope considered, over which an object of a given height would be struck.

Deflection: The angle between two vertical planes containing, one the line of sight, and the other the axis of the bore.

Digitized by Google

Deflection center: The point about which bursts in air or impact are evenly distributed in direction.

Direct fire: Fire with high muzzle velocity, the elevation not exceeding 360 mils.

Direct laying: Pointing the gun for direction and elevation by directing the line of sight upon the target.

Drift: The departure of the projectile from the plane of fire due to its rotation and to the resistance of the air.

Elevation: The angle between the plane of site and the axis of the bore when the gun is laid.

Height of burst: (1) The vertical angle between the plane of site and a right line joining the muzzle of the gun and the point of burst. (2) The ordinate of a point of burst.

Height of burst center: The point about which bursts in air are evenly distributed in height.

High angle fire: Fire with elevation exceeding 540 mils.

Indirect laying: Pointing the gun for direction by directing the line of sight upon an objective other than the target, and for elevation by the use of a quadrant or elevation level.

Jump: The angle between the line of departure and the axis of the bore before firing; hence, the difference between the elevation and the angle of departure.

Line of departure: The prolongation of the axis of the bore at the instant the projectile leaves the gun.

Line of sight: The right line passing through the sights and the target or the aiming point.

Mean height of burst: (1) The height of the burst center. (2) The average of several heights of bursts.

Mil: The unit of angular measure, one sixty-four-hundredth of a circle. The arc which subtends a mil at the center of a circle is, for practical purposes, equal to one one-thousandth of the radius. The arc and its tangent are nearly equal for angles not greater than 330 mils.

Military crest: The line nearest a crest from which all the ground toward the enemy may be seen and reached by fire.

Muzzle velocity: The velocity of the projectile at the instant it leaves the bore. Velocities are measured along the tangent

Digitized by Google

to the trajectory at the point considered and are expressed in feet per second.

Normal corrector: The corrector setting which gives a normal height.

Normal height: The height of burst giving the maximum effect from a projectile.

Ordinate: The distance of a point of the trajectory from the plane of site. The **maximum ordinate** is the ordinate of the highest point of the trajectory.

Parallax: The angle at any point subtended by any given line.

Plane of fire: The vertical plane through the line of departure; also called *plane of departure.*

Plane of site: A plane containing the right line from the muzzle of the gun to the target, and a horizontal line perpendicular to the axis of the bore at the muzzle.

Point of burst: The point at which a projectile bursts in the air or at which it would have burst in the air had it not struck the ground.

Point of fall, of impact, or of graze: The point where the projectile strikes.

Probable error: The amount of error that, in a large number of occurrences, will be as often exceeded as not.

Quadrant angle of departure: The angle between a horizontal plane and the line of departure.

Quadrant elevation: The angle between a horizontal plane and the axis of the bore when the gun is laid.

Range: The distance from the muzzle of the gun to the target.

Range center, center of impact, or mean point of fall: The point about which the points of fall, reduced to the plane of site, are evenly distributed.

Range of burst center: The point about which bursts in air are evenly distributed in range.

Site: The angle between a horizontal plane and a right line joining the muzzle of the gun and the target; called also the *angle of position.* The origin of site scales is taken at 300.

Trajectory: The path described by the projectile in its flight.

Digitized by Google

Remaining velocity: The velocity of the projectile at any point of the trajectory.

Reverse slope: The slope which, from the direction of the enemy, is hidden by a ridge of which the slope is a part.

Terminal or striking velocity: The remaining velocity at the point of burst or point of fall.

Time of flight: The time in seconds required for the projectile to travel from the muzzle of the gun to any point of the trajectory—usually to the point of fall or of burst.

SECTION II.—THE TRAJECTORY.

1045. The relation between the elements of the trajectory is influenced by the muzzle velocity of the projectile, by the angle of departure, and as soon as the projectile has left the bore, by the force of gravity, the resistance of the air and the rotation of the projectile around its axis.

If the force of gravity, the resistance of the air, and the rotation of the projectile around its axis could be eliminated, the projectile would describe a straight line and its velocity would remain constant. If the projectile be supposed to be influenced only by its velocity, the angle of departure, and the force of gravity, it can easily be shown that it would describe a curve, the highest point of which would be the center of the trajectory, and that both halves of the trajectory would be identical in shape. But the resistance of the air acts to reduce the velocity of the projectile from the instant it leaves the muzzle, and consequently influences the path which it describes, so that in reality the highest point of the trajectory is nearer to the far end, and the two parts of the trajectory are unequal and unsymmetrical.

In order to force the projectile to travel along its trajectory with its point foremost, a rotary motion is imparted to it by the rifling in the gun.

1046. When the target and the gun are in the same horizontal plane, the proper elevation for the gun is the range-table elevation.

Digitized by Google

When they are not in the same horizontal plane, the proper elevation for the gun is the range-table elevation plus or minus the site. The site is additive if the target is higher than the gun, subtractive if it is lower.

1047. When direct laying is used, the site is automatically taken into account, as the line of sight is directed on the target. On the other hand, when the elevation is given by the quadrant it must be increased or diminished by the site, so as to bring the trajectory on the target.

1048. The remaining velocity decreases as the range increases.

1049. The time of flight increases more rapidly than the range.

1050. The drift increases more rapidly than the range. By increasing the deflection by the amount of drift for any range the axis of the bore may be pointed as far to the left of the target as the shot would drift to the right.

1051. The fuze of the shrapnel permits its use for either percussion or time fire. In time fire, under normal atmospheric conditions, the fuze should cause explosion at a determined burst interval.

1052. When the time train burns too slowly, low points of burst, bursts below the target, or explosions on impact are obtained. When it burns too quickly, high points of burst are obtained.

1053. When a shrapnel explodes in the air the bullets are expelled from the case to the front, their paths, taken collectively, assuming the general shape of a cone, called the **cone of dispersion**, the apex of which is the point of burst, the axis coinciding approximately with the continuation of the trajectory.

The angle between the two lines cut from the surface of the cone of dispersion by a plane passing through its axis is called the **angle of opening.**

The angle of opening depends upon the relation between the velocity of rotation and the remaining velocity.

Digitized by Google

Manipulation of the trajectory in the plane of fire.

1054. In the course of firing, the captain will be constrained to utilize the relations existing between the elevation, the site, and the corrector, which are the following:

The location of the trajectory in the vertical plane depends upon the site and the elevation. It may be changed by changing one or the other of these elements, or the same location may be retained by making the proper changes of both in opposite senses.

A variation of the site affects the range the same as an equal variation of the elevation.

The height of burst under normal conditions depends only on the site and the corrector.

If the site only is varied, the point of burst is displaced in height, but not in range; if the corrector only is varied the point of burst is displaced at the same time in both height and range. Simultaneous and equal but opposite changes of site and corrector cause no change in height of burst, but the burst range changes.

The burst range depends only on the fuze setter range and corrector settings. It is increased or diminished by increasing or diminishing the fuze setter range or by lowering or raising the corrector.

The point of burst of two or more rounds are not coincident unless these three elements remain constant, or unless all three change at the same time by suitable amounts and in the proper relation.

The differences in range shown in the range tables as corresponding to given variations of elevation are measured in the plane of site. On slopes greater than the plane of site, such as a counter slope, the difference in ranges to points of fall will be less than that in the tables. On terrain inclined in the opposite sense, such as a reverse slope, the difference in ranges to points of fall will be greater than that in the tables.

Section III—General Provisions.

1055. To render effective assistance to other arms upon the battle field, field artillery must be able to deliver a timely and

Digitized by Google

overpowering fire upon any designated part of the enemy's position.

1056. The battery is the fire unit.

1057. Those areas of the hostile position within which fire is to be delivered by particular artillery units are called **sectors.** They are usually described by reference to prominent points of the terrain, right lines to which, from the observing station of the commander of the artillery unit considered, limit the area assigned. Within, and sometimes outside, the sectors assigned, fire must be delivered upon objectives called **targets.**

1058. The tactical command of one or more fire units with a view of bringing their fire to bear upon a suitable position upon the proper targets at the appropriate time is called **fire direction.**

1059. The dispositions that must be made and the technical determinations of the data necessary before opening fire constitute **preparation of fire.**

1060. Conduct of fire consists in employing the technical means necessary to cause fire of the desired nature to be brought to bear upon the target.

1061. The officer charged with the conduct of fire must be the master of the fire of his guns. He must be able to turn the fire promptly upon any target at will and to regulate its intensity and distribution as circumstances require. The attainment of this condition requires on the part of the officer complete familiarity with the weapons at his disposal and skill and quick decision in their use, and on the part of the organization thorough knowledge of the matériel, uniform and reliable service of the piece, cooperation of all parts, and strict fire discipline.

1062. Accurate and skillful cooperation of several batteries under a single command is the foundation of proper fire direction.

1063. Owing to inaccuracies in the determination of firing data, to the influence of weather conditions, to errors made in the service of the guns, and to imperfections in matériel and ammunition, fire must be delivered and, on the basis of obser-

Digitized by Google

vations, corrected to insure effectiveness upon the target. During such fire effect is desirable. Fire of this nature is called **fire for adjustment.**

When fire has been thus adjusted it must be continued, often with changed data, to secure effect. During such fire continued observation is necessary. Fire of this nature is called **fire for effect.**

SECTION IV—POSITIONS.

1064. Artillery may be posted for **immediate action, in observation,** or **in readiness.**

When posted for **immediate action** the guns are unlimbered and fire is opened as promptly as possible upon the indicated targets.

When posted **in observation** the guns are unlimbered and all preparations made for opening fire at the desired moment upon the existing or expected targets.

When posted **in readiness** the guns are not unlimbered. They are held under cover near a position for possible immediate action, but so that they can be moved quickly to another locality if the development of the tactical situation so requires. In the meantime the immediate tactical situation is studied, positions in the neighborhood for posting the guns to meet different eventualities are selected, and preparations are made for occupying the selected positions and for promptly opening fire upon the existing or expected targets.

1065. Positions are defined as **masked** or **in the open,** according as they afford concealment from the hostile position or not.

When no concealment is afforded the guns are said to be in **the open.**

When concealment is afforded, the guns are said to be **under cover** or in a **masked position,** and the fire is referred to as **masked fire.**

The degree of concealment varies. Thus:

(*a*) If the guns are posted so that through the sights the hostile position can be seen over the mask, they are said to be **in the open.**

Digitized by Google

(*b*) If where a dismounted man can just see the hostile position over the mask, they are said to have **dismounted defilade.**

(*c*) If where a mounted man can just see the hostile position over the mask, to have **mounted defilade.**

(*d*) If so that the flash of the gun will be concealed from the hostile position, to have **flash defilade.**

Positions are described by the foregoing terms.

1066. The hostile position against which defilade is taken may be the target to be attacked; preferably, however, defilade is taken against the highest position from which enemy parties can effectually observe.

1067. A defilade of 4 yards is sufficient to conceal the flash of the gun by day. A defilade greater than this is still referred to, however, as **flash defilade.**

Complete concealment is obtained only in positions having flash defilade.

1068. The captain of a battery acting alone usually has great latitude in choosing the position for his battery.

In battalion the choice of a battery position is limited by the battalion commander, who must consider neighboring batteries and many other conditions.

1069. By whomever it may be chosen, the position of the guns should conform to certain conditions whose requirements are frequently contradictory.

First. The battery should be able to fulfill its tactical mission; that is, it must be able to fire effectively upon its targets.

Second. It should be as little exposed as possible to hostile observation or fire.

Third. The facilities for command of the battery should be such as will insure the rapidity of fire demanded by the tactical situation and the nature of the targets.

1070. Indirect laying permits the conduct of fire from a distance. The difficulty of transforming information at the location of the officers conducting fire for application at the guns increases more or less with the distance and direction of separation and with the difference of altitude. The difficulty of transmission of information also increases with the distance.

Digitized by Google

SECTION V.—DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

1071. Due to the extensive use of cover brought about by the efficiency of modern firearms, the targets of artillery are certain to be concealed from view a greater part of the time and likely, when visible, to remain so but a short time. To find out where the enemy is, to determine definitely the location and nature of hostile bodies, and to secure the information which will enable the guns to open prompt and effective fire have hence become duties of the first importance. **Before the commencement of the action and through all its phases** this information must be sought. Preparation must be made on the tactical side for posting the guns where they will be most effective, and on the technical side for securing the data which will permit fire to be opened promptly on all the positions which the enemy is known or expected to occupy.

1072. The commander of the troops determines the object of the action, fixes the extent of Artillery support to be furnished the larger units, and indicates important objectives for special attack.

The distribution of objectives and the determination of the way in which the Artillery is to attack them are the province of the Artillery commander.

1073. At the beginning of the action the Artillery brigade commander, knowing the objective of the Infantry, what troops are designated to attack these objectives, and the degree of support for the different attacks, distributes the Artillery at his disposal so as best to accomplish the desired results. He designates the organizations that are to support a particular attack and those that are to be held in observation or in readiness to meet the developments of the action. He makes clear to his subordinates the mission that each is to accomplish. As the combat progresses he keeps himself informed of the progress of the different attacks and if necessary modifies his initial orders. He keeps his subordinates informed, as far as possible, of the situation and of changes in the general plan.

Digitized by Google

1074. The regimental commander causes his unit to take position and assigns sectors to the battalions in accordance with the orders he has received. He keeps himself constantly informed as to the dispositions both of the enemy and of the troops with which his regiment is cooperating. He takes steps to insure an adequate supply of ammunition. In certain cases, as, for example, when it may be necessary to concentrate the fire of his entire regiment against a comparatively narrow front, the regimental commander may have to direct the fire in detail. In general, however, he indicates the portions of the enemy's line upon which fire is to be delivered, leaving the details of fire direction to his battalion commanders.

1075. The battalion commander directs the fire by assigning targets to the batteries and by furnishing them such information and data as will tend to increase the efficiency of their fire. To this end he transmits to them such information concerning the nature of their targets, ranges, conformation of the ground in the vicinity of the objectives, etc., as may become available from maps, reports, and orders received, from his personal reconnoissances, or any other source.

The battalion commander must keep himself constantly informed as to the effect of the fire.

1076. The battalion commander designates targets and assures himself that they are identified. Technical details are ordinarily left to battery commanders.

1077. Sudden changes in the tactical situation may cause the battalion commander to take under the fire of his batteries targets not originally assigned to his unit. He will at once report the fact to his immediate superior.

1078. Within the battalion changes of objectives are usually ordered by its commander and communicated to all batteries concerned, but a battery commander may order change of objective, on his own responsibility, for the support of troops in a critical situation, or when necessary for the close defense of his guns, reporting his action as soon as practicable to his immediate superior. As such cases usually necessitate fresh adjustment, involving loss of time, the targets should not be changed except

Digitized by Google

in emergencies until the results sought against the former target have been fully attained.

1079. When communication is broken between a battery commander and his battalion commmander the former will take over the duties of fire direction.

1080. It is the duty of all commanders to transmit to officers conducting fire all available information which would assist in adjusting the fire or in increasing its effect. It is the duty of all newly arriving units to seek information of this character from units already in action, and it is the duty of all officers having this information to furnish it.

1081. Fire direction is the function of battalion commanders, who exercise it in detail by assigning targets to particular batteries, and of higher Field Artillery commanders, who usually exercise it by assigning sectors to battalions.

1082. Conduct of fire is the function of battery commanders.

1083. In the general case the Field Artillery commanders assign duties to their subordinates, specifying clearly and as succinctly as possible the tasks to be accomplished by each; they exercise supervision over the supply and expenditure of ammunition, giving such special directions as may be necessary to insure the same being used to the best advantage to meet the requirements of the various phases of the action; they assist their subordinate commanders by keeping them supplied with all attainable information which will aid in the adjustment or employment of fire; but they refrain from interfering in the details of conduct of fire or the service of the guns, interposing only when it is perfectly obvious to them, after careful observation of the fire, that the target is misunderstood or that the desired results are not being attained.

1084. Cases may exceptionally arise where it will be necessary for the higher Field Artillery commanders to conduct the fire of a part of their commands. Suitable tactical dispositions should be sought to avoid such cases, which are most likely to occur in close country where targets visible to the higher commanders may not be visible from the stations of subordinate commanders.

Digitized by Google

1085. The higher Artillery commanders are concerned especially—

1. To procure by all possible means definite information as to the position of hostile bodies, or as to the positions liable to be occupied by them.

2. To select positions or areas to be occupied by the different units of Artillery and to cause reconnoissance officers to determine the necessary firing data for these positions.

3. To assign each unit its particular duty or task, designating, when appropriate, those units for **immediate action** and those to take position **in observation** or **in readiness.**

4. To formulate clearly in their minds the terms or methods which they will employ in the designation of objectives (targets, aiming points, registration marks, etc.).

5. To provide each subordinate commander and to keep him provided with all available information, technical and tactical, which will assist him in the performance of his duties.

For this purpose, to organize the service of information and communication so that information as to positions and movements of the enemy and of our own troops may, on the one hand, be quickly obtained and, on the other, be quickly transmitted.

6. To organize and maintain the service of ammunition and other supplies.

1086. Battery commanders are concerned especially—

1. To select suitable observing stations for themselves and to post auxiliary observing parties, if practicable, so that they may assist in the observation of fire.

2. To examine the target assigned and endeavor to determine clearly its nature, its extent, and its relation to surrounding objects.

3. To study the terrain in the neighborhood of the target; locate, if possible, any ravines, hollows, or obstructions which would hide the fall of projectiles, and decide whether it will be necessary or preferable to adjust the fire upon some particular part of the target rather than upon the whole front.

4. To measure the front to be attacked and decide upon the method of distributing the fire.

Digitized by Google

5. To decide upon the method of laying, selecting an aiming point if indirect laying is to be used.

6. To determine the initial firing data, if they have not been furnished by the battalion commander or reconnoissance officer or from other sources.

7. To decide whether the adjustment is to be by time or percussion fire, and whether by platoon or by battery.

1087. The executive establishes his station near the guns, in a location from which he can most readily exercise his functions and communicate with the station of the battery commander.

1088. The time available for the performance of the foregoing duties depends entirely upon the nature of the action. In some cases they must be performed with the utmost celerity; in others the opportunity is afforded for deliberate and complete preparation before opening fire. **Every effort must be made to reach the position in advance of the moment for action, and thus gain the opportunity to appreciate the situation and make the necessary dispositions for the prompt opening of effective fire.**

SECTION VI.—OBSERVING STATIONS.

1089. The officer conducting the fire should choose his observing station so that he can see all of his sector and as much as possible of the adjoining terrain.

To facilitate the transmission of orders and the proper exercise of command the station should be as near the guns as the conditions permit. This may often be accomplished by using elevated observing stations, such as trees, buildings, etc., or a specially prepared ladder or tower.

When the observer is in immediate proximity to the guns it is usually necessary for him to take post on their windward flank in order that his view may not be cut off by dust and smoke and that his voice may carry more certainly.

1090. The commander of an isolated battery frequently has a wide latitude in the selection of his observing station. But the proximity of other batteries, the advantage of flash defilade, and of withdrawing the guns from their mask to reduce the chance of their being reached by searching fire, and the com-

Digitized by Google

pelling necessity of observation of the sector may impose a station remote from the guns. In such a case reliable communication must be established and maintained.

1091. If the station is in immediate proximity to the guns or is apt to be subjected to the enemy's searching fire, suitable protection from hostile fire should, whenever possible, be provided for the observing officer.

1092. Battalion commanders should seek observing stations from which they can both surely see the terrain assigned to their units and communicate quickly and certainly with their battery commanders without complicating the communication of the latter with their batteries. The most favorable situation is one near to and between two of the batteries where the stations of the major and two captains may be closely associated.

1093. Auxiliary observers may frequently be used with advantage at stations near the targets or at a considerable distance to a flank of the line of fire. Elevated stations are particularly favorable. In the selection of such stations the most important requirements are a plain view of the target and its adjoining area, cover from hostile discovery, and sure and swift communication with the stations to which they are auxiliary.

Observers close to the target should preferably be established from battery personnel. Except when a battery is acting alone, flank observers will ordinarily be supplied by the battalion commander. Flank observers who are intended to assist in adjustment of fire should be in visual communication with the unit from which they are sent out.

1094. Auxiliary observing stations are also established in captive balloons and in mobile aircraft.

SECTION VII.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Methods.

1095. The best means of communication is the voice, using the megaphone if necessary, but frequently communication must be by telephone, by buzzer, by signals, by relays of men for voice transmission, by courier. The whistle also may be used.

Digitized by Google

1096. Alternative means of communication should habitually be established.

1097. Each battery, each battalion headquarters, and each regimental headquarters is provided with suitable apparatus for signaling and for electrical communication.

The available matériel must be employed according to a flexible scheme, and each case must be solved according to the particular necessities.

1098. Frequently the higher commanders will find it convenient to post themselves near one or more of their subordinates and communicate with them by word of mouth or by couriers. The matériel and personnel thus freed from other use may be utilized in establishing communication with auxiliary observing stations, ammunition trains, or reconnaissance officers and scouts accompanying other troops.

Battery Communication.

1099. The battery signalers comprise a corporal, designated **telephone corporal**, and two privates designated as **operator No. 1** and **operator No. 2.**

1100. The telephone corporal is in immediate charge of and responsible for all the signal equipment of the battery.

He makes such tests and repairs as he may be authorized to make, and reports all trouble which he can not remedy to the captain personally at the first opportunity.

He is responsible that the kind of communication required is established quickly and effectively.

He reports to the captain when communication is established with the guns and with the battalion commander. Similarly he reports any break occurring in the line of communication.

He acts as operator at the battery station on the line to the battalion station.

When available he assists in relaying commands by voice.

1101. Whenever the battalion line is laid near a battery observing station the telephone corporal habitually establishes communication over it with the battalion station.

Digitized by Google

1102. Operator No. 1 assists in establishing the kind of communication required.

He reports to the executive when communication is established. Similarly he reports any break occurring.

He acts as operator at the station of the executive.

He is assisted by **scout No. 1.**

1103. Operator No. 2 assists in establishing the kind of communication required.

He reports to the telephone corporal or to the captain when communication is established. Similarly he reports any break occurring.

He acts as operator at the battery commander's station on the battery line.

1104. When signal or wire communication with the battalion station is unnecessary, the operators may be employed for communication with auxiliary observers, with scouts, or with other units.

Battalion Communication.

1105. Battalion communication is established and maintained by a **sergeant major,** a **signal corporal,** a **signal private,** an **agent** from each battery, and the battalion **musician.**

1106. The sergeant major supervises the maintenance of all the signal equipment of the battalion.

During the reconnaissance of the position he receives the battalion commander's instructions as to the kind of communication required and supervises its establishment.

If communication by wire is to be established, he examines the ground, selects the route for the line to follow, and causes the reel cart to lay the wire.

He is in general charge of all messages received or sent by wire, signals, or agents at the battalion station.

He assists in sending and receiving messages.

1107. Whenever the regimental line is laid near a battalion observing station the battalion sergeant major habitually establishes communication over it with the regimental station.

1108. The signal corporal is in immediate charge of and responsible for all the signal equipment of the battalion.

Digitized by Google

He makes such tests and repairs as he may be authorized to make and reports all trouble which he can not remedy to the adjutant personally at the first opportunity.

Under the direction of the sergeant major he establishes the kind of communication required.

He reports to the adjutant or the battalion commander when communication is established with the batteries. Similarly, he reports any break occurring.

He acts as operator at the battalion station on the line to the batteries.

1109. The signal private assists the signal corporal in the maintenance of the signal equipment and the establishment of communication.

He reports to the adjutant or major the establishment of communication with the regimental station. Similarly, he reports any break occurring.

He acts as operator at the battalion station on the line to the regimental station.

When not otherwise engaged he acts as recorder for the signal corporal.

1110. Agents carry messages to the various elements of the command.

1111. The battalion musician, when not otherwise engaged, assists the sergeant major at the battalion station.

1112. Signal equipment and personnel not required for signal or wire communication with the batteries may be employed for communication with auxiliary observers, with scouts, or with other units.

1113. The wire may usually be most conveniently and rapidly laid by commencing at the battalion station, because the reel must be taken there with the cart. But if time permits, the wire is preferably laid so that, at the completion of the task, the reel will be near the battalion station. Wire may thus be held immediately available for extension of the line.

Regimental Communication.

1114. Signal or wire communication between the regimental commander and his battalion commanders, and between the regi-

Digitized by Google

mental commander and the next higher commander, is established in a manner similar to that in a battalion, corresponding individuals performing similar duties.

Brigade Communication.

1115. No special apparatus or operators for signal or wire communication are provided at brigade headquarters. The brigade commander gives such general instructions as may be necessary to insure the maximum utilization of the personnel and matériel available in the lower units.

When the Field Artillery brigade commander directs a regiment or battalion to furnish a certain line, as, for example, to connect the regiment with brigade headquarters, the designated unit furnishes such operators as may be required at brigade headquarters, as well as at other stations on the line to be established.

Laying the Wire.

1116. The battery telephone corporal attends to stretching the wire and setting up the stations in cases involving the use of the battery hand reels.

1117. The sergeant major ordinarily accompanies the reel to make sure that it follows the most appropriate route, to see that at the different stations the operators are ready and make proper connection to the line, and to give the line guard such special instructions as may be necessary to insure the proper placing and protection of the line.

1118. Every precaution must be taken to avoid betraying the position when laying the wire. To accomplish this it may frequently be desirable to cause the reel cart to follow a route considerably in rear of the line which the wire is to occupy and to carry the wire by hand to its proper position after the unreeling has been completed.

1119. It is essential that all wire be so laid as to be as far as possible out of the way of probable movements, either of field artillery, of other troops, or of individuals. The wire is

Digitized by Google

stretched either before or after the posting of the guns, as may be most suitable in the particular case. Whenever practicable it is best to run the wire in front of the line of guns rather than in rear. When the line must be laid on ground which has to be crossed by teams in taking up the position it may be best to wait until the guns have been posted and until the teams have cleared the position before beginning to lay the wire.

1120. For effective wire communication good grounds at the instruments are essential. Moist earth should be sought. In dry earth the most favorable location is one near the roots of grass or brush. A satisfactory ground may be obtained through a rod driven into a growing tree.

Guarding the Line.

1121. It is the duty of all men, knowing the position of a wire and seeing it approached by others who are evidently unaware of its location, to give warning by calling, "**Wire.**"

1122. As a rule sufficient warning as to the location of a line pertaining to a battery can be given without its being necessary to detail a special line guard. When necessary, however, the executive details one or more men to patrol and guard the line.

1123. The line guard pertaining to a reel cart follows the reel when the wire is being laid, shifts the wire to the side of the road, and takes such other precautions as may be practicable for protecting the wire and minimizing its interference with traffic.

Often the wire may be suspended from trees or posts high enough to permit the passage of mounted men. At road crossings it may be covered with boards or earth.

After the wire is laid the line guard patrols the line, warning individuals who approach it of its location, and making repairs when necessary. The necessary men are detailed from the headquarters detachment or, if no members of such detachments are available at the time, they are temporarily detailed from the battteries.

Digitized by Google

To Use the Telephone.

1124. In speaking into the transmitter the head should be held in a natural position, the lips about an inch from the transmitter. The transmitter should be held with its face vertical and should be protected from the wind.

In a high wind good results may be obtained by pressing the transmitter against the throat on either side of the windpipe.

Use a moderate tone of voice and speak slowly and distinctly, being careful not to slur the words or syllables, but to enunciate clearly each sound.

Never shout or raise the pitch of the voice.

Never use the letter "O" for zero; when so used it is often mistaken for "four."

The digit "9" being often difficult to understand, the word **nine** may be substituted therefor.

If it is necessary to repeat, use more care as to distinctness, but do not raise the voice. A single number not understood may be accentuated by counting up to it and emphasizing it. Thus, if the figure 4 is not understood, say, **FOUR**: one, two, three, **FOUR.**

In receiving observe the following rules:

1. Keep the mind on the message; a person can not receive correctly when he is thinking of something else.
2. Keep the receiver close to the ear.
3. Do not interrupt the sender unless absolutely necessary.
4. Caution the sender when he is speaking too loudly, not loudly enough, or too rapidly.

1125. In the service buzzer one good battery placed in position next to the hinge of the battery door will operate the telephone element, while two batteries are needed for buzzer communication.

When no serviceable tungsten batteries, type A, are available, four dry cells of any type may be utilized, as follows: Remove the old tungsten batteries; connect the four dry cells in series; attach one end cell lead to lug P of induction coil, the other end cell lead to the horizontal bar alongside the coil. This operates the buzzer element.

Digitized by Google

The telephone is operated by connecting the binding post T to the connection between the two middle cells.

Use of the Buzzer.

1126. Transmission by buzzer is more accurate than by telephone, but it is slower. It is particularly appropriate when insulated wire has been injured or when bare wire only is available. Its use may be necessitated by noise and induction rendering the telephone unreliable. Efficiency of buzzer service requires a high state of instruction in the maintenance and use of the instrument.

Tests.

1127. Faults in the line are most surely discovered by cutting in at several points with an extra instrument. They are due to grounding or to breaks.

A bad ground of the line near the instrument is indicated by a weakening of the buzzer note when the instrument is connected to the line, and frequently by a noisy receiver.

A partial ground of the line is indicated by weakness or complete failure of telephone transmission, although buzzer transmission is possible.

An opening or break in the line is indicated by complete failure of telephone transmission, although buzzer transmission may still be possible.

1128. Instrumental tests are described in paragraphs 710 and 711.

Signaling.

1129. Semaphore signaling is the most rapid visual method.

1130. Under favorable conditions semaphore signals with the arms can be read up to 600 yards. In a clear atmosphere semaphore signaling with the flags can be read without field glasses up to 1,200 yards; with glasses, up to 2,000 yards. Special attention must be given to conditions of light and background and to defilade from the enemy.

Digitized by Google

Voice Relay.

1131. A chain of men for relaying by voice may become necessary. But the number of men between the sender and receiver should not exceed two, as opportunities for error are thus rapidly increased. In any case such communication will be slow, and it will be effective only if the men have been trained to the duty.

Couriers.

1132. Messages by courier should, in general, be written. If sent orally, they should be of the simplest character, usually involving only a single statement.

Whistle.

1133. A long blast of the whistle denotes **cease firing.** It is used when the command is likely to be unheard or to be delayed in reaching the guns. It must not be used when there is any possibility of its being heard by batteries other than the one intended.

Aircraft.

1134. Communication from mobile aircraft is reliable only when radiotelegraphy is used. In the absence of such means it will be necessary to use written or phonographic messages dropped to the ground; to the notes of a high-pitched horn at short distances; to colored lights, as from a Very pistol; to mechanically projected dots, dashes, or streamers of black powder; to certain evolutions of the aircraft; or to other prearranged signals.

Signaling to mobile aircraft is reliable by means of strips of white cloth, about 20 yards long and 2 yards wide, fastened to the ground in conventional geometrical figures.

1135. Communication to and from captive balloons and kites should be by wire.

Digitized by Google

SECTION VIII.—PREPARATION OF FIRE.

1136. By skillful preparation of fire the time required to secure adjustment may be greatly abridged, and the ability may be gained to strike a vulnerable enemy by surprise with fire which is from the outset effective.

1137. In the preparation of fire the captain usually requires assistance. This is obtained from members of the special details consisting of the instrument detail, the signal detail, and the scout detail.

The instrument detail consists of one instrument sergeant, one range-finder operator (generally a first-class private), and one horse holder.

The signal detail consists of one telephone corporal and two operators, designated as operator No. 1 and operator No. 2.

The scout detail consists of one corporal and one second-class private in peace and of two corporals in war.

1138. The instrument sergeant is in general charge of the instruments and equipment used by the special details.

He is informed at the earliest possible moment as to the situation, the sector assigned, the location of hostile and friendly troops, the reference point, the target, the position of the guns, and the aiming point.

He sets up the telescope and the aiming circle, operates the latter, and calculates firing data.

He keeps a record of the firing and assists the captain in observing the fire and studying the terrain, and in collecting, recording, and transmitting data.

1139. The range finder is responsible for the condition, care, and operation of the range-finding instrument.

He receives the same information as the instrument sergeant and finds for him the ranges required.

He assists the captain in observation of the fire, the enemy, and the terrain.

1140. Scout No. 2 is informed as early as possible as to the situation, the sector assigned, the location of hostile and friendly troops, and the target.

Digitized by Google

He prepares such place or panoramic sketches as may be directed.

He observes the sector, especially the target, reporting changes in its formation, appearance, and movement, and any effect upon it.

He may be assigned to particular duties, such as to observation regarding the security of the battery, to observation of friendly troops or of hostile bodies other than the target, to assistance of other members of the detail.

1141. Other members of the battery commander's detail not otherwise engaged may be assigned to duties in connection with preparation of fire and its conduct.

1142. Whenever a position is occupied, all practicable steps will be taken to provide protection for the personnel additional to that afforded by the matériel, and shallow trenches will be prepared to facilitate shifting the trails.

1143. The data that must usually be communicated to the guns before they can fire are:

1. The aiming point or the target.
2. The deflection.
3. The deflection difference.
4. The site.
5. The kind of projectile.
6. The method of fire.
7. The range.

DESIGNATION OF OBJECTIVES.

1144. Objectives must be designated in a prompt, concise, and unmistakable manner. Officers must exercise themselves in describing objectives of all kinds, in all available forms of terrain, and must accustom those under them to the terms and methods employed in the description. Practice of this character should habitually form a part of firing instruction and should also be included in the instruction of scouts and agents.

1145. Targets and aiming points are most clearly designated by word of mouth and to a person standing near by. On the occupation of a position the aiming point and the expected tar-

Digitized by Google

gets should, as far as practicable, be thus pointed out to the officer commanding the guns.

1146. If targets are distinct and clearly defined, they may be designated by name, as, for example, "The battery on hill 240," "Cavalry to the right front," etc. If a target is indistinct, poorly defined, or masked, then an area may be designated for attack, the nature of the target being invariably given.

1147. In designating objectives (targets, aiming points, registration marks, areas) the following procedure is appropriate, especially when the objective is not conspicuous or readily recognized:

Define the **relative position** of the objective by giving the approximate direction and distance of the objective and its location with respect to a prominent feature of the landscape as a **reference point.** Then give its important **characteristics,** such as its nature, shape, and color. Sometimes the **site** of an objective will simplify its designation.

1148. A reference point should, if practicable, be within the sector assigned for attack, preferably near its center.

1149. Directions may be indicated by pointing; by the use of military terms, such as **to our left front;** by the use of imaginary hour marks on an artificial horizontal clockface the center of which is at the position of the speaker, and the 12 o'clock mark directly to the front of the position or at a reference point; by the similar use of a vertical clockface whose center is assumed to be at a reference point; by the points of the compass.

1150. The location of an objective may sometimes be fixed by coordinates.

1151. If the objective is in itself inconspicuous, it is usually best to designate first the most prominent object in its general direction, then to give the angular distance between this reference point and the real objective, and then to give the distance to and description of the latter.

The usual method of procedure is as follows:

1. Indicate the general direction of the objective.

2. Designate the most prominent object in the direction indicated.

Digitized by Google

3. State the angular distance from this auxiliary object to the objective.

4. Characterize the objective.

Thus:

1. At 2 o'clock horizontal.

2. At 3,000 yards a large stone house, square, two storied, with a cupola on top.

3. Five hundred mils to the right of the cupola.

4. At 2,500 yards a light battery in position in rear of the large orchard.

Or:

1. Northwest.

2. At 5,000 yards two symmetrical hills of the same height.

3. The left peak the reference point.

4. At 7 o'clock vertically, a field of brown weeds.

5. In that field, a machine-gun battery.

Or:

1. The lone tree on Artillery Ridge.

2. Two hundred yards south and four hundred yards west, a bare stretch of road.

3. Beyond the road, machine guns.

1152 If it is necessary to designate objectives to a person at a distance, it is important to remember that objects often present very different appearances if viewed from widely separated positions. For this reason it is desirable to select as reference points natural features having geographical names, or objects having no similarity to others near by, or features having a uniform outline, and hence presenting the same appearance from whatever angle they are viewed. If a courier is used to transmit such information, he is required to keep the objective in view as much as possible while passing from one station to the other.

1153. The designation of objectives may be greatly facilitated by the use of maps or by causing a position or place sketch of the terrain to be prepared and copies to be furnished the different subordinate commanders concerned. On such a sketch important landmarks and military objectives should be named or numbered for ready reference.

Digitized by Google

Panoramic sketches may be used in a similar manner, but when individuals using such a sketch for identification are widely separated, allowance must be made for difference in point of view.

1154. Maps ruled into small rectangles that may be readily described by reference to horizontal and vertical notations on the margins are highly useful in the designation of objectives and areas.

Parallax.

1155. The parallax of an objective is the angle at a point of the objective subtended by a platoon front, 20 yards, at any place. Its value in mils is quickly calculated by dividing 20 by the number of thousands of yards from the place in question to the objective. Thus, the distance to an objective being 2,800 yards, its parallax is 7, fractions less than .5 being disregarded.

In calculating parallax it is sufficiently exact in the usual case to take as the divisor the whole number representing the number of thousands of yards in range; thus, 3 instead of 2.8 in the example given.

1156. The parallax of an objective is greatest when the objective lies on the normal to the middle of the platoon front considered. As the direction of the objective departs from this normal the parallax decreases until it becomes zero, when the objective is on the line of the platoon front prolonged. This is known as the change of parallax due to **obliquity.**

1157. The correction for obliquity may be determined with sufficient accuracy by multiplying the parallax, obtained through assuming the objective to be on the normal to the platoon front considered, by .9, .7, .4, and 0.0, when the angular distance of the objective from the normal is 400, 800, 1,200, and 1,600 mils, respectively. By interpolation the multipliers for other obliquities may be obtained.

1158. The parallax of a target is always positive. The parallax of an aiming point in front of the line of guns is positive, of one in rear negative.

Digitized by Google

Aiming Points.

1159. The selection of suitable aiming points for indirect laying calls for special attention. The best aiming points are:

1. Continuously visible through the panoramic sight of each gun.
2. Easily designated and identified.
3. At a considerable distance from the guns.
4. Of narrow width and sharp definition.
5. Near the normal to the line of guns or near the line of the guns prolonged.

It will frequently be impracticable to select an aiming point fulfilling all these conditions.

1160. The use of the same aiming point by all of the guns of a fire unit simplifies both fire direction and conduct of fire. When time is available before the guns come up it is best to go to the point where each gun is to be placed and make sure that the aiming point will be visible through the sight from that point. But a common aiming point is not indispensible.

1161. Some object which quickly attracts the eye should be selected, and, if possible, it should be the only object of its kind in the vicinity, so that doubt, hesitation, and mistakes may not arise either in the designation of the aiming point or in finding it quickly after looking away. Inconspicuous aiming points should be avoided.

1162. Although refinements in calculation of parallax are uncalled for, errors in its computation should be minimized by the selection of distant aiming points. Usually points more than 2,000 yards distant will be found most suitable.

1163. Narrowness and sharp definition in an aiming point make uniformity of laying more certain. If a broad aiming point must be chosen, the part of it to be used must be designated. If a tree, its trunk may be designated; if a ledge of rock, a certain edge; if a building, a certain chimney, peak, or gable.

1164. The rate of change in the value of the parallax within 400 mils of the position of its maximum value, and its actual

Digitized by Google

value within 400 mils of the position of its minimum value are so small that for aiming points within these angles the parallax need not be corrected. For other positions, the parallax must be corrected for obliquity. Aiming points should be chosen, if possible, to reduce calculations.

1165. A point in rear of the guns is preferable to one in front, because the top shield does not interfere with vision.

A point on a flank is appropriate when at a greater distance than 1,000 yards and when enough to the rear to prevent its being obscured by any of the matériel or personnel. At shorter distances the recoil of the gun carriages materially changes the parallax, thus shifting the sheaf of fire and causing irregularities of distribution.

1166. When artificial aiming points must be established near the guns, the best direction for a common one is directly in rear of the center of the line of guns. To reduce the effect of recoil upon parallax a separate one may be placed directly in rear of each gun.

1167. If the distant aiming point is apt to be obscured by mist or smoke, then provision must be made for a secondary aiming point. The guns having been oriented on the target by means of the distant aiming point, the sights may, when necessary, be turned upon the new aiming point and the latter used in subsequent fire.

Firing Over a Mask.

1168. When a position for masked fire is to be occupied, it is necessary to make sure that the projectiles from each gun will clear the mask and reach ground which is occupied or is expected to be occupied by the enemy.

1169. If the guns are already in position and the **mask is not more than 200 yards in front**, the guns may be given the elevation and site corresponding to the nearest expected position of the enemy, and a glance through the bores will tell whether the projectiles will clear the mask. At greater distances this method is not applicable because the trajectory is not a straight line.

Digitized by Google

1170. In the general case clearance of the mask should be assured before the guns arrive, so as to preclude indecision and delay in posting them. It is necessary to decide what are the shortest range and the minimum site to be used. It can then be decided whether from the contemplated position of the guns the projectiles will clear the mask and reach the desired territory. If they will not, a place must be found from which they will.

To solve the problem the height in mils of the trajectory at the mask is determined and compared with the height of the mask in mils.

1171. The sliding scale on the ruler may be used to determine the height of trajectory at the mask as follows:

1. Determine (*a*) the distance from guns to mask, (*b*) the difference of level in mils between guns and target, (*c*) the range to target.

2. Move the sliding scale on the ruler until the graduation indicating difference of level between guns and target is opposite that indicating distance to mask; then opposite the graduation-indicating range target will be found the **height of trajectory** (*h*) in mils at the mask.

3. Determine the height of the mask in mils. If it is less than *h*, the projectile will clear the mask; if not, move backward or forward until a point is reached where it is less.

Example: A position about 200 yards in rear of a crest is contemplated, which will be masked from the opposing artillery and will permit fire on an advance infantry position which is about 2,000 yards from the guns and has a site of 315.

R=2,000 yards.
d=200 yards.
a=15 mils.

Placing +15 of the sliding scale opposite range 200 on the ruler, there is found opposite range 2,000 the value of 63 for *h*.

The site of the crest is found to be 340; that is, the crest is 40 mils above the position contemplated for the guns. The projectile will clear the crest by 63—40=23 mils.

1172. The sliding scale on the ruler also permits the determination of the minimum range at which fire will clear the mask.

Digitized by Google

Thus, taking the data of the preceding example, it is quickly determined that the minimum range is 1,300 yards.

1173. A convenient method for determining the distance from a mask at which the projectile will clear it is as follows:

1. Determine the height of the mask in yards.

2. Divide four times this height by the range from the mask to target in hundreds of yards.

The result will be the distance, with a large factor of safety, in hundreds of yards, from mask to gun so that the trajectory will clear the mask.

If it is desired to limit definitely the space in front of the mask within which fire can not be delivered, the **dead space**, the distance in hundreds of yards from the mask to the farther limit of the dead space, instead of the range from mask to target, should be taken as the divisor.

Another method is as follows:

From the covering crest measure the site of the target or the site of the limit of permissible dead space. To this add the elevation in mils corresponding to the minimum range from the mask. If this sum is greater than the site of the crest, measured by a man kneeling at the gun position, the mask will be cleared.

Or, subtract this sum from 600. The guns will clear the mask from any ground whose site, measured from the crest, is greater than the result of this subtraction.

1174. With sufficient accuracy for the solution of mask problems the elevation in mils corresponding to a given range is equal to 10 less than three times the hundreds of yards in range.

1175. Other methods may be used to obtain the above results, but such a knowledge of the trajectory and of slopes should be developed by training that, on ordinary terrain, officers will be able at a glance to occupy a position from which a given mission may be fulfilled.

1176. Whatever may have been the process employed for determining the position of the guns with reference to the mask, the possibility of firing will always be verified as soon as the pieces are in position by measuring the minimum range at which

Digitized by Google

each piece will clear the crest. The minimum range for firing with all the battery is the greatest of the minimum ranges announced for the several pieces.

Measurement of Angles.

1177. Angles may be measured in mils by means of the telescope, the aiming circle, the ruler, the scale in the field glass or its known field of view, or by handbreadths.

The telescope and the aiming circle are instruments of precision. The graduated field glass affords means of measuring angles accurately. When neither the telescope nor aiming circle is available, or when time does not admit of their being set up, use may be made of the less reliable means, practice with which will insure considerable accuracy.

1178. For preliminary practice, horizontal and vertical scales of mils should be laid off on any convenient vertical surface, using an instrument of precision.

As the ruler is already graduated the distance at which it should be held from the eye so that its graduations will cover corresponding spaces on the scales must be determined by trial. Usually this distance is then fixed by tying the ruler cord to the clothing or by knotting it and holding the knot in the teeth.

When the hand is used for angular measurements, its distance from the eye should be such as may be assumed naturally and uniformly and maintained without fatigue. The portions of the scales then covered by different parts of the hand can be determined and memorized.

The width of the field of view of the field glass can be determined similarly and quite accurately divided by eye into halves, quarters, and eighths.

In making the above calibrations the operator must stand at the position of the instrument used in establishing the scales.

1179. For measuring by handbreadths, each individual will obtain the best results by predetermining, according to the methods just described, the value in mils of certain parts of the hand.

Digitized by Google

Average values are given below, it being presumed that the hand is held vertically, palm outward, arm fully extended to the front:

	Mils.
Width of first finger at second joint	40
Width of second finger at second joint	40
Width of third finger at second joint	35
Width of little finger at second joint	30
Width of first, second, and third fingers at second joint	115
Width of first, second, third, and little fingers at second joint	150
Width of thumb	40

1180. Repeated practice should be had on varied terrain in measuring both horizontal and vertical angles with the field glass, the ruler, and the hand, the results being checked by accurate instrumental measurements.

1181. Frequently the terrain presents features that make possible the construction of rough vertical and horizontal scales, whose origin is at an objective, which will serve to measure angles that must be noted during firing.

1182. Errors of measurement and calculation of angles and the time required increase with the angles, particularly if the rougher methods are used. If is important, therefore, to reduce large angles as much as possible by resort to various expedients.

For example, an assistant may sight across the face of the object glasses of the field glass upon the aiming point or target. The observer may then select an auxiliary point on a right line perpendicular to the line to the aiming point or target. An angle that must be measured may thus be reduced by as much as 1,600 mils.

Or the line to an aiming point or target may be fixed with any two convenient objects, and the observer by placing himself on this line may avoid the measurement of as much as 3,200 mils.

Deflection.

1183. To overcome the effects of wind and drift, a correction in deflection may be necessary. Its amount is generally small, however, and with a little experience may be readily estimated.

Digitized by Google

The correction for drift is always additive; that for wind may be either additive or subtractive, depending upon the direction of the wind. The value of each correction is first estimated; they are then combined to secure the resultant correction.

The following rough rules may be of assistance:

1. To overcome drift increase the deflection by 3 mils for ranges up to 3,500 yards; by 5 mils for longer ranges.

2. To overcome a 10-mile cross wind change the deflection in the appropriate sense by an amount in mils equal to the number of even thousands of yards in the range.

1184. The travel of a target during the flight of a projectile may cause variations in deflection for which correction must be made.

If the line of travel of the target makes an angle greater than 45° with the line of fire, take 5 mils deflection if the target is moving at a walk; 10 mils, if moving at a trot; 15 mils, if moving at a gallop. If the line of travel makes an angle less than 45° and greater than 15°, take one-half of the foregoing deflections. For angles less than 15° make no correction.

If the target is moving to the left, add the correction; if to the right, subtract it.

1185. When direct laying is to be used, the initial deflection setting may be fully determined by the foregoing rules.

1186. When indirect laying is to be employed, there must also be determined the deflection setting which will cause each piece to be directed upon its target when its line of sight is directed upon the aiming point.

In unfavorable country it may sometimes require considerable ingenuity to direct the guns upon the target. The basis of the method usually employed is to select a common aiming point and to determine the deflection which will cause one of the pieces when laid on the aiming point to be pointed in the required direction. Such a piece is called the **directing piece.** The corrections for wind, drift, and movement of the target are applied with the proper sign to the deflection of the directing piece. A correction is also determined which, applied in arithmetical progression to the deflection of the directing piece, will give for each of the other pieces the deflection necessary to bring its line

Digitized by Google

of fire in the appropriate direction. This correction is called the **deflection difference.**

Deflection Difference.

1187. The principles involved in the determination of the deflection difference are best explained by assuming the target to be visible from the guns. Elementary instruction is best conducted, moreover, with the guns placed so that this will be the case, as a check may then be had on the computations made.

1188. If the guns of a battery at normal or other equal intervals are, with zero deflection, laid accurately upon the same part of a target—for example, its right edge—and the lines of sight are then all directed upon a common aiming point, the deflection readings will be found to increase or decrease from right to left by a common difference. This common difference in deflection is termed the **convergence difference.** It is the deflection difference necessary to produce converging fire, being positive if the deflections increase from right to left, negative if they decrease.

1189. The convergence difference may thus be measured directly if the guns are in position and the target can be seen through the sights. But the data should, in the general case, be obtained before the guns come up. Moreover, when indirect laying is to be employed the target is not usually visible from the guns. Direct measurement of the convergence difference is not then feasible in the usual case. By computation its value may be readily determined as follows:

(*a*) Determine the parallax of the aiming point and the parallax of the target.

(*b*) The convergence difference is equal to the parallax of the aiming point diminished algebraically by the parallax of the target. It is additive if this algebraic difference is positive, subtractive if it is negative.

1190. Assuming the guns to be still converged upon the right edge of the target, their fire may now be evenly distributed over the whole front of the target if we retain the same aiming point for all the pieces and the same deflection for the right piece but increase the deflection of each of the other pieces by an amount necessary to cause its line of fire to be directed upon

Digitized by Google

its appropriate part of the target. The common difference in deflection necessary to effect this distribution is termed the **distribution difference.** Its value is obtained by dividing the front of the target, expressed in mils, by one less than the number of guns in the unit firing. It is always additive, provided the right gun is directed upon the right section of the target, and the difference is applied in arithmetical progression to the deflection of the right piece to determine the deflection of the other pieces in order from right to left.

1191. The algebraic sum of the convergence difference and the distribution difference is the **deflection difference.** If converging fire is to be used, the distribution difference is zero and the deflection difference is therefore equal to the convergence difference.

1192. The following nomenclature is used to designate the terms referred to above:

DD	**Deflection difference.**
CD	Convergence difference
F	**Front of target in mils.**
P	Parallax of aiming point.
T	Parallax of target.
X	Number of guns in unit firing.

1193. The relations brought out in the foregoing discussion may be expressed as follows:

Rule I: The convergence difference is equal to the parallax of the aiming point diminished algebraically by the parallax of the target; or, CD=P—T.

Rule II: For converging fire the deflection difference is equal to the convergence difference; or, DD=P—T.

Rule III: For distributed fire the deflection difference is equal to the convergence difference increased algebraically by the distribution difference; or, $DD=P-T+\frac{F}{X-1}$

A specialw case of distributed fire is **parallel fire.** If the lines of fire are parallel they are directed upon points just a platoon front apart. Therefore, in the last equation, $\frac{F}{X-1}=T$ and DD=P. Hence we have

Digitized by Google

Rule IV: For parallel fire the deflection difference is equal to the parallax of the aiming point; or, DD=P.

1194. Rule IV affords a quick and ready means of distributing fire, since, to determine the deflection difference, an estimate of the distance to the aiming point and a computation of its parallax are all that is necessary.

1195. The foregoing rules afford a method of determining the deflection difference necessary to produce either converging, parallel, or distributed fire. If the pieces have a common aiming point and any piece is given a deflection which will cause its line of fire to be directed upon its appropriate section of the target, the desired convergence or distribution may be secured by giving the other pieces the deflection of this directing piece increased (or diminished) by as many times the deflection difference as there are platoon fronts between it and the piece considered (960).

The Deflection of the Directing Piece.

1196. If it is possible to point the directing piece upon its target by looking through the sight, or by occupying an elevated position in rear and looking over the line of metal, then its deflection from an aiming point may be measured. Or, if an observer posted near the position of the directing piece can see the target, he may measure the angle in mils between the aiming point and the target, and this may be taken as the deflection. By taking post on a tower or ladder, by climbing a tree, etc., the target may sometimes be seen from near the gun.

Or, two men may be posted between the gun and the target so that one can be seen from the gun. The one nearest the crest must see the other and the gun. The one nearest the gun must see the other and the target. By directing one another, these men can establish the line from the gun to the target.

But if the observer must be at a considerable distance from the guns, then the deflection of the directing piece must be secured by measuring at the observing station the angle from aiming point to target and transforming this angle for use at the guns.

Digitized by Google

1197. This transformation may be effected (*a*) by the parallax method; (*b*) by the parallel method.

The parallax method is used to best advantage when the observing station is in prolongation of the line of guns and not more than 400 or 500 yards away. It is an extremely quick method, the necessary computations being readily made mentally after facility has been gained.

1198. (*a*) **The parallax method:** To illustrate this method, let it be assumed that the observing station is on the right flank of the guns, in prolongation of their front, and at a distance of *n* platoon fronts from the right piece.

At the observing station the angle A is measured from the aiming point to the right section of the target. This angle may be considered as the deflection necessary to cause an imaginary piece at the observing station to be directed upon the right section of the target; the actual directing piece, *n* platoon fronts away, may be converged upon the same part of the target by increasing (or diminishing) the deflection of the imaginary piece by *n* times the convergence difference. The process is then altogether similar to that before explained for causing convergence in an established line of guns. We have then

Rule V: The deflection of the directing piece is equal to the angle from aiming point to target, as measured at the observing station, increased algebraically by as many times the convergence difference as there are platoon fronts in the interval between observing station and directing piece; or, $D=A+n(P-T)$.

If the observing station is on the right flank, *n* is positive in the foregoing equation; if it is on the left flank, negative.

1199. If the observing station is not on the prolongation of the line of guns, but is in advance of or rear of that line, the interval between observing station and directing piece must be measured perpendicularly to the line joining that piece and the target.

In the latter case the data secured will probably be only approximately correct; but the error in direction should not

Digitized by Google

be great, and errors both in direction and distribution should be readily corrected by subsequent observation.

1200. The parallax method thus outlined gives great facility in transforming the deflection, not only from an observing station to a battery, but from battery to battery along a line of guns having a common aiming point. A great variety of special cases will be met in practice, but if the possibilities of the method are fully grasped some adaptation will usually afford a solution. By constant practice in the solution of all sorts of cases facility in the use of the method is to be obtained. The great advantage of the method is that it permits a rough approximation of the direction from gun to target to be quickly furnished. The approximation should be close enough to permit the first salvo to be observed; errors may then be quickly recognized and corrected.

1201. (*b*) **The parallel method:** Points may be quickly selected, by estimation, in the direction of the aiming point and the target such that lines from the observing station to them will be approximately parallel to lines from the gun to the aiming point and the target. The included angle will be the deflection.

Or, the interval in yards from the observing station to the line from the gun to the aiming point is measured or estimated. The angle at the aiming point subtended by this interval is computed and laid off on the side of the aiming point farthest from the gun. An auxiliary point is there noted on the terrain. Similarly, the angle at the target subtended by the interval from the observing station to the line of fire is determined and laid off on the side of the target farthest from the gun; and an auxiliary point is noted. The angle between lines to these auxiliary points will be the deflection.

For example: The observing station is 100 yards to the left of the directing gun, the aiming point is 4,000 yards to the front, and the distance to the target is 2,000 yards. One hundred yards at 4,000 yards corresponds to 25 mils and 100 yards at 2,500 yards corresponds to 40 mils. Starting at a point 25 mils to the left of the aiming point, measure to a point 40 mils

Digitized by Google

to the left of the target. This angle is the deflection of the directing piece. If the aiming point is very distant and the displacement from the gun is not great the correction at the aiming point may be disregarded.

1202. The special advantage of an aiming point common to all the guns is that the officer conducting the fire may then most simply calculate and establish the direction and distribution of his fire.

1203. If an aiming point visible from all the guns and from the observing station can not be found, then some expedient must be devised for directing the guns upon their targets. The following are given as examples of such expedients:

Example 1: The guns are in a depression and all view of the surrounding country is cut off. No natural aiming points are available. The battery commander, mounted on an observing tower, can see the target provided his tower is placed in rear of the third piece.

Solution.—The captain places his tower in rear of the third piece and, looking over the line of metal, directs the gun upon its appropriate part of the target.

He causes the gunner of the third piece to turn his panoramic sight upon the centers of the rammer staffs held vertically at the sights of each of the other pieces in turn and to read off the corresponding deflections. For pieces to the right of the third piece this deflection is increased 3,200; for pieces to the left it is diminished by 3,200. The resulting deflections are in each case set off on the sights of the respective pieces, and they are then laid, using the sight of the third piece as an aiming point. **Parallelism** of the lines of fire is thus secured.

The deflection of each piece may then be measured from an artificial aiming point.

Example 2: Suitable aiming points can be seen from the guns, but none of them are visible from the observing station which, on account of the lay of the ground, must be placed about 400 yards to the flank of the guns.

Solution.—The battery commander decides to designate his telescope as a temporary aiming point. He determines the deflection of the directing piece as follows:

Digitized by Google

(*a*) Sets the telescope at 3,200, directs it upon the sight of the directing piece, and clamps the lower limb; unclamps the upper limb, directs the telescope on the target, and reads the angle.

(*b*) Measures or estimates the interval in yards between telescope and gun, divides this amount by the number of thousands of yards in range to target, and thus procures the angle in mils at the target subtended by the interval between telescope and gun.

(*c*) Adds this angle to the angle measured by the telescope if the telescope is on the left of the guns, subtracts it if the telescope is on the right. The result is the deflection to be used by the directing piece, the telescope being the aiming point.

Setting off this angle on the sight of the directing piece and using the telescope as an aiming point, the piece is laid on the target. The direction of this piece may then be referred to any suitable aiming point. By computing the deflection difference in the usual way, the deflection to be given the other pieces may then be determined.

1204. The captain may have to occupy an observing station such that the data for computation can not be obtained.

Example: The executive has established the sheaf of fire in the general direction of the center of the sector assigned.

Solution.—The captain causes a single round to be fired from one of his interior pieces and corrects the deflection in accordance with the observed result.

1205. The situation may be such that the pieces must be scattered at irregular intervals and without regard to alignment. The sheaf may be formed by the method described in paragraph **968.**

1206. When battery salvos are used, the second (third) piece should be taken as the directing piece and its deflection calculated for the right (left) of the target.

When platoon salvos are used, the first (fourth) piece should be the directing piece, its deflection that for the right (left) of the target.

1207. When the deflection and deflection difference have been calculated under conditions exceptionally favorable to accu-

Digitized by Google

rate results the computed data should be used. Otherwise the initial deflection or initial shift is best announced as the multiple of 10 nearest to the determined value; and, except against very narrow targets, the initial deflection difference as the multiple of 5 nearest to a value determined by increasing algebraically by 10 the parallax of the aiming point.

Site.

1208. The correct determination of the site is important in the resultant saving of time and ammunition and in the production of effect during fire for adjustment.

If the target is visible from the position of the guns, the site may be measured there. If the target is not visible from the position of the guns, the site may be measured at the observing station and transformed, if necessary, for use at the guns.

In open country the site may often be estimated with sufficient accuracy by referring the site of the target to a distant horizon the site of which is ordinarily 300.

1209. If the observing station and the guns are at approximately the same level, and at approximately the same distance from the target, the angle measured at the observing station is used without change at the guns.

1210. If the observing station is near the guns, but at a different level, the angle measured at the observing station is corrected, as follows: Estimate the difference of level in yards between observing station and guns; convert this difference into mils by dividing the number of thousands of yards in range to target and apply the result with the proper sign as a correction to the site of the target as measured at the observing station.

Example:

Site measured at observing station_____= 320 mils.
Estimated height of observing station above guns_= 30 yards.
Range of target (measured or estimated)_____=3,300 yards.

$$\text{Correction} = +\frac{30}{3} = +10 \text{ mils.}$$

Site at guns=320+10=330 mils.

Digitized by Google

1211. If the distances to the target from the observing station and the guns materially differ, the angle measured at the observing station is corrected as follows: Determine the difference of level in yards between observing station and guns (Lg) and between observing station and target (Lt) by measuring the difference of level in mils, and converting this difference into yards by multiplying it by the number of thousands of yards in the distance from observing station to gun or target. Determine the difference of level in yards between gun and target by taking the sum of the foregoing differences if the observing station is at a level intermediate between the gun and target, by taking their difference if the observing station is above or below both the gun and target. The result is affected with a positive sign if the gun is below the target, with a negative sign if the gun is above the target; and it is then converted into mils by dividing by the number of thousands of yards in range. Applying this correction to 300 with the proper sign, the site at the gun is obtained.

The operations to be performed in effecting this transformation are set forth in detail in the Field Artillery Data Book.

Example:

Difference of level between observing station and gun, in mils.....(Sg) = −50
Difference of level between observing station and target, in mils.....(St) = +10
Distance from observing station to guns, in wards.(BG)=1,200
Distance from observing station to target, in yards.(BT)=4,500
Distance from guns to target, in yards.....(R) =3,000

$$Lg = -50 \times 1.2 = -60$$
$$Lt = 10 \times 4.5 = 45$$
$$SI = 300 - \frac{\frac{Lg - Lt}{R}}{1{,}000} = \frac{-60-45}{3} = 300 + 35 = 335.$$

1212. Except where instruments are known to be in exact adjustment and ample time is available for calculating data, the site should be given in terms of the nearest multiple of five.

Digitized by Google

1213. If a very broad target sloping sharply at right angles to the plane of fire is to be attacked, it will generally be necessary, in order to secure exact adjustment of the fire, to vary the sites by a common difference from one flank of the line of guns to the other. The value of this common difference may be determined by finding the difference in site between the two flanks of the target and dividing this difference by one less than the number of guns firing.

1214. A change of site does not change the range to the point of burst in air, but increasing the site raises the point of burst in time fire and lengthens the range in percussion fire, while decreasing the site lowers the point of burst in time fire and shortens the range in percussion fire.

Percussion Fire.

1215. Percussion fire is principally employed for the destruction of material objects, such as walls, buildings, obstacles, artillery matériel, etc. Such fire is termed **fire for demolition.** It is also appropriate for fire against troops in woods or in confined spaces.

For the destruction of artillery matérial or other targets of low relief, light field guns may be used, but such use at ranges exceeding 2,000 yards requires the expenditure of much ammunition.

Time Fire.

1216. Time fire is employed for the attack of animate objects and aircraft, and gives more incendiary effect than percussion fire.

Corrector.

1217. The corrector setting should be such as will cause the mean point of burst to be about 3 mils high during fire for effect; about 1 mil high during fire for adjustment.

Due to variations in powders and fuse compositions and to atmospheric conditions, and to errors in the determination of the site, the most suitable corrector must be determined in each

Digitized by Google

individual instance. Hence, at the commencement of fire, a trial corrector must be taken. This trial corrector is such as is suggested by previous experience with the ammunition in use and with local atmospheric conditions.

Method of Fire.

1218. In deciding upon the number of guns to be employed, the captain should consider the nature, size, importance, and range of the target to be attacked, the conditions of observation, the firing data already determined by previous fire, the supply of ammunition, the tactical situation.

1219. Fire by battery has the advantages of increasing the chances of discovering abnormal errors of gun service and of observing more than one round, thus establishing quickly the basis for changes of direction, height of burst, and range. When the range has been accurately determined it increases the probability of obtaining both shorts and overs at the first salvo and effect on a wide front of the target. It also has the advantage of at once setting all of the trail spades.

Fire by platoon has the advantage of simplifying analysis of the observation of individual bursts with respect to range, distribution, and height of burst, and of saving time in the launching of each salvo. It requires somewhat less ammunition than by battery and, in some cases, may increase the percentage of rounds correctly observed for range.

Fire by piece is appropriate to check a very doubtful deflection and, in some cases, for fire for registration.

1220. Salvos insure the identification of individual rounds and, with the exception of distribution, more accuracy in observation of fire. They are favorable to accurate service of the piece.

Volleys are faster than salvos and give better observation of distribution.

1221. Salvos usually commence on the leeward flank of the guns, in order that the burst of one round may not be obscured by the smoke or dust of the other.

Digitized by Google

Range.

1222. The initial range may be determined by means of a range-finding instrument, by angle-measuring instruments, and a measured base, by the use of maps, by sound, by estimation, from auxiliary observers, from previous fire, or from other units. Every auxiliary means, time permitting, should be employed to assist in the measurement of the range, since its correct predetermination is essential to promptness of effect. In many cases an officer must rely upon his own estimate of the distance. By constant practice it is possible to gain the ability to estimate distances closely, and it is imperative that artillerymen should acquire this ability. In such training distances should be estimated to permanent features of the terrain rather than to targets known to have been arranged for service practice.

1223. If the objective is indistinct, or if the air is calm or gently blowing from the range toward the observer, so that the smoke of bursts is likely to obscure the target for an appreciable time, the first range used should be somewhat long.

1224. If fire over friendly troops near the target becomes necessary, the first range used should be surely long.

Atmospheric Influences.

1225. The range and normal corrector are influenced by the atmospheric temperature and pressure. The effect of moisture in the air is negligible.

The lower the temperature, the shorter the range; the higher the temperature, the longer the range.

The lower the atmospheric pressure, or barometer, the longer the range; the higher the pressure, the shorter the range. In a high altitude, where the pressure is lower, the range is longer.

In summer, when the temperature is high and the barometer low, the range is long; in winter, when the temperature is low and the barometer high, the range is short.

Digitized by Google

An accelerating wind increases the range. A retarding wind has the opposite effect.

The lower the temperature, the more slowly the time train burns; the higher the temperature, the more rapidly it burns.

The lower the pressure, the more slowly the time train burns; the higher the pressure, the more rapidly it burns.

The normal corrector depends on both the range and the action of the fuze, so that the effect of atmospheric conditions on the normal corrector is the resultant of their effect on the flight of the projectile and on the fuze.

The lower the temperature, the higher the normal corrector; the higher the temperature, the lower the normal corrector.

The lower the pressure, the lower the normal corrector; the higher the pressure, the higher the normal corrector. In a high altitude the normal corrector is lower.

In summer the normal corrector is low; in winter it is high.

The effect of a high altitude upon the normal corrector may be either decreased or increased by the effect of temperature variations.

An accelerating wind lowers the normal corrector; a retarding wind has the opposite effect.

The daily variations in range and normal corrector caused by atmospheric conditions increase with the range. At ranges less than 3,000 yards daily variations are not important.

Summary.

1226. In determining the data for indirect laying, the following is a summary of the operations which may be carried out when an observing station on the flank of the guns must be taken and a suitable one can be found within 400 or 500 yards of the guns.

1. Select an observing station from which a good view of the target and its surroundings may be obtained, which is as close to the guns as the conditions permit and which lies nearly as possible on the prolongation of their front.

Digitized by Google

2. Select an aiming point which is surely visible from all the guns, whose direction is as nearly normal to the front as possible and whose distance from them is preferably not less than 2,000 yards.

3. Measure the angle from aiming point to target, the site, and the front of the target in mils.

4. Measure or estimate the distance to aiming point and to target and compute the parallax of each. Correct the parallax of the aiming point for obliquity if the line from the directing gun to the aiming point makes an angle greater than 400 mils with the normal to the front of the guns.

If the observing station is at a considerable distance from the front of the battery prolonged, the parallax both of the aiming point and the target must be determined with reference to a platoon front on the line station-directing piece for use in computing the deflection of the latter and with reference to a platoon front in the battery for use in obtaining the deflection difference.

5. Determine the convergence difference by Rule I, estimate or measure the distance to the directing piece and apply Rule V for the determination of the deflection.

6. Determine the deflection difference by Rules II, III, or IV.

7. Correct the site, if necessary, for difference of level between observing station and guns, adopt the corrector which previous fire has shown to be the most suitable, and take the range as measured or estimated.

Example 1: A battery is ordered to take a masked position in observation and be ready to fire upon an indicated hostile battery whose range is known to be 2,100 yards. The battery commander finds an observing station 200 yards to the left of the right piece and on the prolongation of the battery front. He selects an aiming point in rear, 5,000 yards away. He finds that he has ample time to make accurate measurements and computations.

At the observing station he finds: A=2600 mils; F=30; SI=203. He notes that the observing station and guns are practically at the same level.

Digitized by Google

He computes:

P=20/5=—4, or, =—3, when corrected for obliquity (A=2600).

T=20/2=10.

P—T=—3—10=—13.

$$\frac{F}{X-1}=\frac{30}{3}=10.$$

DD=—13/10=—3.

n=—10 (to right piece.)

D=2600—10 (—13)=2600/130=2730.

1. Aiming point, that chimney.
2. Deflection, 2730.
3. On first piece, close 5 (taking nearest multiple of 5 for the first salvo).
4. Site, 293.
5. Corrector, 28.
6. Battery right.
7. 2100.

The operations are simplified if ample time is not available and approximate methods are used, taking the third piece, for example, as the directing piece:

P=—3.

T=10.

DD=—3—10=—13.

n=—8.

D=2600—8 (—3—10)=2704.

1. Aiming point, that chimney.
2. Deflection, 2700.
3. On third piece open 5 (10) (opened from parallel fire by 10 or 15).
4. Site, 295 (nearest multiple of 5).
5. Corrector, 28.
6. Battery right.
7. 2100.

Example 2: A battery which has just taken a position in the open and is firing upon a disorganized enemy is directed to turn

Digitized by Google

its fire upon a large body of retiring Infantry. The target can not be seen from the position of the guns.

The battery commander finds a place to the right flank and slightly in front, from which he can see the target. Using the ruler, he measures the angle from a prominent tree to the column as 350 mils; he estimates distance to target as 2,500 yards, to aiming point 4,000 yards, to second piece 7 platoon fronts.

He computes:

P=5.
T=8.
P—T=5—8=—3.
n=7.
D=350+7(—3)=329.

He estimates the target to be on the level with his guns, decides to use an open sheaf and commands:

1. Aiming point, that lone tree.
2. Deflection, 330 (nearest multiple of 5).
3. On second piece open 15 (open by 10 from parallel fire).
4. Site, 300.
5. Corrector, 28.
6. Battery right.
7. 2,500.

The captain estimates the **direction** of the third piece as correct, the **distribution** as somewhat too large, the **height of burst** as high (all four burst in air mean height 9 mils), and the **range** as indeterminate (on account of the high bursts).

He commands:

1. On third piece close 5.
2. Down 10.
3. 2,500.

and fires such other salvos as may be necessary to effect the adjustment.

Example 3: Having fired upon the target of the previous example until it disappears at 3,000 yards, the battery commander sees another body of troops whose range he estimates as 2,000

Digitized by Google

yards. Using the ruler, he finds that his target is 200 mils to the right of the last target and that its site is 295.

Treating the old target as an aiming point, D=6,200/8 (7—10)—=6,175.

He commands:

1. Right, 225.
2. Site, 295.
3. Corrector, 20.
4. Battery right.
5. 2,000.

SECTION IX.—OBSERVATION OF FIRE.

1227. The officer conducting the fire, unembarrassed by details of the service of the guns, and assisted by members of the battery commander's detail, should devote himself to observing and correcting the fire and adapting its employment to meet the requirements of the situation. He should train himself to form accurate and quick estimates and to act on them with decision and boldness.

1228. To overlook ground which is invisible to the officer conducting the fire and to assist generally in the adjustment of fire, free use is to be made of auxiliary observing parties.

1229. Such parties occupy the most favorable observing stations which the conditions of the combat admit. Preferably they are as near the enemy as possible.

1230. Their special duties are to furnish information which will assist in the adjustment of fire and to keep the Artillery commander informed of movements of the targets or of our own troops which would affect the employment of fire.

1231. With respect to the adjustment of fire, they indicate especially whether the range is **short**, **over**, or **correct**; whether the **burst interval**, when in front of the target, is too **great**, too **small**, or **correct**; whether the direction is **right**, **left**, or **correct.**

If large errors in range are made, an observer on the flank of the guns will not usually be able to separate the errors in range from those in direction; in such a case the observer would ordinarily signal the direction only, as **right** or **left**, as it appears to

Digitized by Google

him, and the officer conducting the fire, knowing the position of the observer, would deduce the sense of the salvo, volley, etc., in range. If the observer is to the right of the line of fire, shots striking short of the target appear to be to the left, while those striking over appear to be to the right, and vice versa if he is on the left of the line of fire.

1232. With respect to movements of the enemy, the observer reports especially: If the enemy abandons his position; if he shifts to the right or left, front, or rear to escape effective fire; whether hostile reenforcements enter the sector and their location.

1233. With respect to our own troops, the observer makes such reports as to their movements and situation as will enable the artillery commander best to assist them with the fire of the guns.

1234. Arrangements should, moreover, be made to obtain from advanced troops information which will assist in the adjustment of fire, and indication as to when fire should be commenced or discontinued.

1235. Sure and definite means of communication must be established between the artillery commander, his observing parties, and advanced friendly troops. If time and material admit, wire communication is provided, but visual signaling must always be relied upon to a greater or less extent.

1236. For observation of fire, for study of the terrain, and for the quick recognition of objectives, good field glasses are indispensable. All officers, agents, signalers, and scouts of field artillery should be equipped with suitable glasses and should be skillful in their use. A monocular glass is not suitable for observation.

1237. Field glasses should have a magnifying power of from 6 to 8 and a field of view of 90 mils or more. They should give even illumination and sharp definition and be dust and moisture proof. A means of adjustment to interpupillary distance is important. Independent focusing devices for each eye are preferable.

Digitized by Google

1238. At the commencement of the fire it is usually best to watch for the burst of the shots with the unaided eyes, for if a large error is made the bursts may not appear in the field of view of a telescope or field glass. After the bursts have been located the glasses may be quickly brought into play, if necessary.

As soon as the points of burst have been brought to the vicinity of the target they are observed by the aid of field glasses or the telescope, and all the indications carefully noted which assist in the determination of their relative positions with respect to the target.

1239. Sustained use of an observing instrument reduces acuity of vision. Glasses should not be used, therefore, except with a definite purpose.

1240. In order that any instrument may be quickly adjusted to the eyes, all observers should commit to memory their interpupillary distance and the eyepiece setting for each eye.

1241. The use of a mounting for field glasses reduces the time during which they must be held to the eyes and helps toward certain and continued identification of objectives and accurate study and observation of terrain and of fire.

1242. The line to an objective may often be conveniently fixed by placing an object on the ground between it and the observer.

1243. Correction of fire is based on observation of bursts in air or on impact, and of effect upon the target or upon the terrain.

Bursts in Air.

1244. A burst in air produces a ball of smoke which ordinarily remains together for an appreciable time.

1245. When the shrapnel bursts, the smoke, white or light gray in appearance, is projected in the direction of the trajectory. The point of burst is therefore always above the center of the smoke ball. At ranges beyond about 2,000 yards the point of burst is near to or above the summit of the smoke ball, and the latter, observed from near the plane of fire, is seen in a pear-shaped form, small end uppermost.

Digitized by Google

1246. When viewed from a flank, the direction of the smoke ball outlines the trajectory to a greater or less extent. The smoke from a group of shots, when viewed from a flank, usually will give a definite idea as to the point at which the mean trajectory meets the ground.

1247. An air burst after ricochet gives a pear-shaped smoke ball, with the broader end up.

1248. Occasionally a burst in air close to the ground will give a flattened smoke ball discolored by dust or mud in considerable quantity, caused by the impact of a large number of bullets on a small area.

Bursts on Impact.

1249. When a common shrapnel bursts on impact the smoke ball is discolored and fugitive, its upper portion wide and irregular but somewhat flat.

1250. When a shell or high-explosive shrapnel bursts on impact a large irregular columnar mass of black smoke and dirt formed, which remains visible for some time.

1251. The bullets and fragments from a burst in air knock up a considerable amount of dirt and dust if they strike dry soil; on wet soil splashes of mud are knocked up by the shrapnel case and large fragments. Occasionally the effect of bullets and fragments may be observed in the flattening of long grass or in the movement of brush or tree branches.

1252. An air burst of high-explosive shrapnel is followed by a percussion burst of the head. This ammunition, therefore, affords opportunity to obtain more information than does the common shrapnel or shell. Care should be taken to distinguish the impact burst of the head from a graze burst of the whole projectile.

Direction.

1253. Errors of direction of the sheaf of fire as a whole or of individual rounds may be measured; if small, they may usually be estimated with sufficient accuracy by eye.

The measurement or estimation of these errors may best be made when the observer is near the line joining gun and target;

Digitized by Google

viewed from the flank, the error in direction is complicated with that in range, and its observation is particularly subject to inaccuracy when the shots are fired at ranges sensibly different from that of the target.

Height of Burst.

1254. The height of a burst is measured or estimated from the bottom of the target to the point of burst if the target is not concealed in trenches or behind a crest; otherwise it is measured from the summit of the covering crest.

1255. The height of a group of bursts is the mean of the individual heights of burst.

1256. In estimation, the observer may often refer the burst to some convenient point in the terrain, the angular distance of which above or below the bottom of the target or the covering crest has previously been determined.

1257. For convenience, bursts are classified as follows:

Graze: Bursts on impact.

Below: Air bursts below the target.

Graze below: Graze bursts below the target.

Low: Air bursts from zero to 2 mils above the bottom of the target.

Normal: Air bursts from 2 to 4 mils above the bottom of the target.

High: Air bursts from 4 to 6 mils above the bottom of the target.

Very high: Air bursts more than 6 mils above the bottom of the target.

1258. Inaccuracy of observation is to be avoided by prompt decision upon a consideration of the formation and normal appearance of the smoke ball. Such inaccuracies are the sensing of bursts in air as lower than they actually are, due to sensing on an inappropriate part of the smoke ball; to the sensing as low of graze or below bursts; and to the sensing as air bursts of bursts after ricochet.

Digitized by Google

Range.

1259. It is rarely possible from a position near the guns to estimate with accuracy the amount of the error in range. Such estimates are usually too small and cause delay through an effort to correct the fire by making timid and insufficient changes in the range.

Attention should rather be concentrated on deciding, from careful observation of each shot, upon the sense of a number of shots fired with the same range and site, and on quickly inclosing the target with fire which is surely short and fire which is surely over. By narrowing the bracket thus determined effective adjustment may be secured.

A salvo or volley is considered **short** if all of the observed bursts are short; **over** if all of the observed bursts are over; **bracketing** if half of the observed bursts are over; **mixed** if the majority of the observed bursts are over and the minority are short, or **vice versa.**

The observer should train himself to decide quickly upon the sense of each shot as **short, over,** or **doubtful,** and upon the sense of each group of shots as **short, over, bracketing, mixed,** or **doubtful.** It may be necessary, however, to allow time for the smoke to form and reveal its relative position with respect to the target.

If the sense of a shot can not be definitely decided upon, it is doubtful, and should be disregarded.

1260. The most accurate sensing of range is based on observation of effect on the target. Such observation will be more often possible in war than in peace. Next comes observation of bursts on impact, then of effect on terrain, then of the position of the smoke ball with respect to the target.

1261. Frequently irregularities of the ground or its nature prevent the observation of graze bursts so that low bursts in air must be sought. This is the usual case.

1262. If the observer is considerably above the target, or the target is on ground sloping toward the observer, the sense of a salvo (**short** or **over**) may usually be recognized readily by noting

Digitized by Google

the relative position with respect to the target of graze bursts of the projectile or of the head of high explosive shrapnel or of fragmental hits from bursts in air.

Information obtained from the observation of the effect thus produced is reliable when it is observed as **over**; it should be accepted with caution when observed as **short**, unless the burst is **low**.

1263. If the target and its vicinity can not be seen from a superior elevation, if the ground near the target is at about the same elevation as the observer, or if the ground in front or rear of the target can not be viewed, the deductions as to the sense of the salvo are to be formed especially from the manner in which the puffs of smoke from the bursts affect the appearance of the target.

1264. If the outlines of the target are more clearly defined against the smoke of the burst, the range may always be considered as **over**, whether the burst occurred in air or on graze.

1265. If the target is obscured by the smoke of the burst, the range may be considered as **short**; but, in the case of a burst in air, the burst must be **low** in order to warrant this conclusion.

1266. If the target is first obscured and then immediately silhouetted by the smoke or dust, or the reverse, the range is nearly that of the target.

1267. If the target is indistinct and of about the same color as the smoke, it may be less visible against the smoke as a background. A burst beyond the target may, for this reason, sometimes seem to obscure the target, and hence be judged **short**, when it is in reality **over**. On the other hand, some targets become very much more visible if projected against a smoke background.

1268. If the actual point of burst is observed in line, or approximately so, with the target and is below it, the range is short. If a graze burst is observed above the target and in line with it, or nearly so, the range is over. Occasionally a graze burst wide of the target may be sensed for range through careful study of the terrain.

1269. Frequently the target occupies terrain of such a nature as to justify sensings of rounds, when the deflection is known to

Digitized by Google

be approximately correct, as lost over. But soft or swampy ground may completely smother a burst and prevent sensing.

1270. If the wind is blowing up or down the range, a decision should be formed quickly as to the relative position of the smoke with respect to the target. But if the wind is blowing across the range, it may be better to wait until the smoke has drifted across the front or rear of the target. To secure this result it may be desirable to direct the fire at the windward flank of the target.

1271. In observing bursts with reference to a crest, care must be taken not to be deceived by a crest parallel to the crest sought but short of it. In rolling country such an intermediate crest is often present, and it may merge into the background formed by the higher ground in its rear, and hence escape detection, while, as a matter of fact, there may be a broad valley or depression between the two crests. Shots observed against the near side of the intermediate crest are short and easily sensed, but shots which pass over the intermediate crest and burst low or on graze in the valley between the two and are lost, may be thought to have cleared the farther crest and erroneously sensed as over. Such deceptions may be avoided by obtaining bursts in air on the line joining the observer and the crest sought. If the ball of smoke is cut in two by the crest and the crest clearly defined against it, the burst is over. If the crest is concealed by the smoke, the burst is short. The short bursts may often serve to reveal the existence of the intermediate crest by causing the latter to be silhouetted against the smoke.

1272. When the smoke of burst rises from behind a crest the burst is over the crest.

1273. When the burst is in the direction of a wood the smoke ball may present a ragged appearance due to its being partly hidden by branches or foliage. The indication is that the burst is beyond the near limit of the wood.

1274. If the sun is shining, information as to the sense of burst in air may often be obtained by observing the shadow of the smoke ball on the ground. The height of the burst and the position of the sun must, however, be taken into consideration.

Digitized by Google

1275. In certain cases, such as in fire against air craft, fire at night, fire against masked targets, range sensings will be either extremely difficult or impossible from the vicinity of the guns. Recourse is then had to lateral observers.

The more uncertain the direction of fire or the greater the range of the target, the greater should be the distance of the observer from the line of fire.

1276. Observations of range from lateral positions are complicated by errors of direction. But if the direction is correct all shots seen by the flank observer will be over if they are on the side of the target corresponding to his side of the line of fire, and short if they appear on the opposite side of the target.

Section X.—Observation of Terrain.

1277. An accurate conception of the terrain in the vicinity of the target increases the number of rounds which may properly be called sensible. Preparatory to opening fire the study of ground forms around the hostile positions should be taken up, and this should be continued during the action. Auxiliary observers may give valuable information. If maps are available, they should be studied. Practice in making position and place sketches and a comparison of the sketches with the actual terrain will increase facility in judging ground from a distance.

1278. It is necessary to locate ravines or hollows which might catch and hide the bursts. The smoke from such bursts is apt to rise and reveal itself after a time, but false deductions may be drawn from it. Thus, the smoke from a burst **short** of the target may have become so much dissipated by the time it appears that the target may be seen through it and the impression produced that the target is silhouetted against the smoke. Moreover, if a strong cross wind is blowing, the smoke, when it appears, will probably be at some distance to the flank of the actual point of burst, and erroneous conclusions as to the direction of the salvo may thus be reached. Such false deductions may be avoided, however, if the lay of the ground is appreciated and considered.

Digitized by Google

1279. The existence of unexpected ravines and hollows may sometimes be deduced during firing from the fact that while bursts in air are seen the points of impact of the fragments are not revealed by the dust and dirt knocked up.

1280. Indistinct targets whose location is only approximately known will sometimes be disclosed by bursts beyond them. It may be advisable to search for such targets by firing at varying ranges and deflections. Volleys and salvos with a wide distribution will often favor this purpose.

SECTION XI.—OBSERVATION FROM AIRCRAFT.

1281. The study of terrain and the location of targets without overhead concealment by observers in aircraft are very practicable.

The designation of objectives is difficult. It is possible, however, by several methods, such as by photography, by sketches, by reference to squared maps, by description, by their relation to reference points. Range and direction may be approximately determined by use of the range finder and the aiming circle or telescope in observation on a mobile aircraft at the moment when a prearranged signal indicates that it is over the target.

1282. In observation of fire from a great height, bursts in air and bursts on graze may both be seen; but it is difficult to judge the height of the burst center except by the ratio between the numbers of air bursts and graze bursts. In both range and direction the relation of the shots to the target is easily determined.

Effect from shrapnel bullets can not be observed.

SECTION XII.—CONDUCT OF FIRE.

1283. To fire effectively it is not sufficient merely to know and to observe the technical rules; they must be properly applied, with all the variations of which they admit, in order to obtain the maximum useful effect, considering both the tactical situation and targets. As targets vary in vulnerability and are not equally dangerous, different targets may properly be attacked by different methods.

Digitized by Google

1284. Hitting the target is the most tangible and least questionable form of useful effect, because the essential object of artillery is destruction of the adversary.

If this destruction can not be accomplished, the effort may, at least, effect the neutralization of the enemy by imposing upon him a partial or complete state of inactivity. In addition, the guns bring a moral support to friendly troops, and may divert from them the attention and fire of the enemy.

1285. Artillery may produce important effects of **neutralization, moral support,** or **diversion.** These will be the more surely obtained if they are accompanied by great physical effect, but they may be obtained though physical effect is slight. These effects are to be considered in the decision to start or stop the fire or to vary its intensity.

1286. The terrain should be closely observed and studied, with a view of determining whether or not it offers cover to the enemy, or visible points, which can be used either as aiming points or as reference points to facilitate the identification of targets.

1287. Preliminary adjustment may be dispensed with only when the necessary data have been determined by previous fire, or when the range is very short.

Fire for Adjustment.

1288. During adjustment, observation is the first consideration.

1289. By observing the points of burst or fall and judging their relative positions with respect to the target, the modifications in the deflection, corrector, site, and range settings requisite for more certain observation and for adjusting the fire upon the target are determined.

1290. Adjustment is effected upon the target itself, if practicable. In many cases, however, the target will not be visible to the officer conducting the fire, though its approximate position may be known. Thus, the target may consist of troops concealed behind a ridge, or behind a wall or hedge, or in the edge of a village, a forest, or a field of standing grain.

Digitized by Google

Some prominent feature of the terrain in or near the enemy's known positions—for example, a tree, a house, a mass of rock, etc.—is then selected as a **registration mark**, and by means of scouts, observers in balloons, or any available means, the enemy's location with respect to this mark is determined within the narrowest possible limits.

The fire is then adjusted upon the registration mark, and the area within which the target has been located is searched by the subsequent fire.

1291. If the circumstances permit, advantage may be taken of lulls in the action to secure at least a rough adjustment upon localities in which the enemy is known to be or near which he is expected to appear. Such a fire is termed **fire for registration.** The data are thus secured for opening promptly an effective fire upon an enemy appearing at or near the positions upon which the fire has been registered; by minor modifications in these data a quick adjustment on the target may be secured.

1292. Fire for registration may be conducted to discover accidents of ground which might conceal an enemy or hide the points of burst of our projectiles.

1293. Registration of fire is especially appropriate for artillery to which definite sectors of observation have been assigned.

If the enemy's position within the sector has not been located, the artillery commander proceeds in a systematic way to secure the data which will enable him to reach promptly and effectively any part of the sector. He studies the terrain, decides upon the limits in width and depth of the area to be registered, notes the specially prominent features of the terrain within these limits, and by actual firing directed upon these natural features secures the data which will enable him to reach promptly any target appearing in their vicinity.

1294. Fire for registration should never be used if the location of the fire unit is likely to be thereby revealed.

1295. Adjustments of four kinds are required, viz:

1. In direction.
2. In distribution.

Digitized by Google

3. In height of burst (in case of time fire).

4. In range.

Adjustment in direction involves the establishment of a deflection to bring the sheaf of fire to bear upon the target.

Adjustment in distribution involves spreading the sheaf upon the desired front of target. Modifications of deflection setting are hence necessary.

Adjustment in height of burst involves the determination of a corrector setting, which will cause the mean point of burst to be at the desired height.

Adjustment in range involves the determination of a range setting which will cause the mean trajectory to pass through the target, or, if this is not practicable, the range settings corresponding to the short and long limits of a bracket which surely contains the target.

These adjustments are carried on simultaneously.

1296. The points of burst of a series of shots fired with the same data, even from a single gun, will vary in range, in direction, and in height of burst, due to inaccuracies of the personnel and to variations in ammunition, matériel, and atmospheric conditions. Hence dispersion is to be normally expected, and minor changes in firing data should not be based on the observation of a single shot.

A minor change is one which is less than the probable error.

Deflection.

1297. When direct laying is employed, the executive makes such changes in deflection as may be necessary to bring the fire of each gun to bear upon its proper portion of the target. When shots go wide of the target it should be more accurately designated.

1298. It may often occur that, though the initial direction has been given by direct laying, yet the gunner, on account of smoke, haze, or the indistinctness of the target, is unable quickly to locate it after looking away. Gunners should, in consequence, be trained always to note some mark on the ground which will enable them either to find the target or to bring their guns back

Digitized by Google

to the initial direction by using this mark as a registration mark. If, however, the conditions are such as to render it probable that delay or inaccuracy will thus be occasioned, the captain should at once change from direct to indirect laying.

1299. When indirect laying is employed, the officer conducting the fire adjusts the sheaf.

1300. To overcome observed errors in direction, the error of the piece which is most nearly directed upon its proper part of the target is measured or estimated in mils and a corresponding correction in deflection is applied in the appropriate sense. The correction is habitually applied in even multiples of 5 mils until approximate adjustment in direction is secured, when a correction of less than 5 mils may, if necessary, be made.

1301. Fire having been directed upon the target, it may be shifted to another by increasing the deflection if the shift is toward the left, by decreasing if the shift is toward the right.

The change in deflection necessary for this purpose is determined by measuring the angle in mils between the old target and the new and correcting it as though the old target were the aiming point. Thus the parallax of both targets must be considered and, sometimes, their obliquity.

1302. If salvos or shots are lost, one or more high-bursting shrapnel fired from the directing piece will permit the determination and rectification of any error in deflection; or, in percussion fire, the range may be changed to obtain impacts on favorable ground.

Deflection Difference.

1303. A change in deflection difference is based on the observation of the preceding salvo. It should be made on the piece which, for that salvo, is nearest to its proper direction on the target or on which the deflection is changed; and should be announced ordinarily in the multiple of five nearest to the measured or estimated value.

1304. As adjustment progresses the fire may be either concentrated or distributed. If observation is difficult, concentration upon the most prominent part of the target may be ad-

Digitized by Google

visable; if at the same time a cross wind is blowing a point of adjustment to the windward of the target may be selected. If observation is easy and the front to be attacked is not great, the fire may be distributed from the beginning, the direction and distribution being such as to take advantage of any drift of the smoke balls.

1305. If several batteries are adjusting simultaneously upon a single broad target, then it is generally best for each to concentrate during the adjustment upon the corresponding part of its section of the target—for example, the windward flank.

1306. The simultaneous adjustment of fire by several batteries upon the same target should not be attempted unless it is possible to distinguish clearly the shots of the different batteries firing. If this condition is not fulfilled, the adjustment should be made by one battery only and verified by the others in turn.

Height of Burst.

1307. For adjustment of time fire a low burst center giving a large percentage of bursts on graze is desirable. The opportunity is thus given to observe both bursts in air and bursts on graze. The visibility of the former is little affected by the profile of the ground and the state of the soil, and, taken in connection with the latter, they enable the observer to determine quickly the irregularities of the ground in front and in rear of the target. Moreover, considerable effect may be produced during the adjusting series, and, by a small change in the corrector, passage to fire for effect may be quickly accomplished.

1308. When one-half of a salvo burst on graze and one-half in air a mean height of burst of 0 mils is indicated.

When of a group of shots fired with the same data three-quarters burst in air and one-quarter on graze, a mean height of burst of between 0 and 2 mils is indicated. In the reverse case a mean height of between 0 and 2 mils below the ground is indicated.

These conclusions will be modified if, in addition to the proportion of graze and air bursts, the actual heights of burst be

Digitized by Google

considered. For example, if three bursts are very high and a fourth is on graze, the latter should be disregarded. Thus the question of dispersion affects the conclusions as to the correction of height of burst that may be drawn from a comparison of the number of bursts in air and on graze.

1309. When the mean point of burst is at a height appropriate for adjustment, about one-third to one-half of the shrapnel may, on account of errors of the fuze, of laying, etc., be expected to burst on graze.

So long as these proportions are maintained no change in mean height of burst for adjustment is in general advisable.

1310. The apparent height will differ from the true height of burst if the observer's distance from the target is materially different from its range from the guns or if he is higher or lower than the guns.

If he is nearer than the guns to the target, the apparent height will be greater than the true height; if he is farther away, it will be less.

If he is higher than the guns, bursts in air beyond the target will appear higher, burst in air short lower than they actually are. If he is lower than the guns, the reverse is the case.

The effect of such conditions must be fully considered in correcting data.

1311. Conclusions are to be formed from the observation of a group of shrapnel fired with the same fuze setting, the average height of the bursts being considered. Hence battery salvos afford the quickest and most reliable means of adjusting the height of burst.

1312. Salvos in which the heights of burst are very irregular should not be considered. The irregularities are due to faults of the battery in setting scales and fuzes and in laying.

1313. The height of burst may be regulated by changes of site or corrector.

1314. If the first group of air bursts is too high for observation of the smoke balls as to range, their mean height is measured or estimated and a change is made surely sufficient to bring the burst center to the bottom of the target.

Digitized by Google

If the bursts are in air below, the burst center is similarly brought to the bottom of the target.

If a target has been bracketed for height of burst, intermediate corrector settings are used for more accurate adjustment.

1315. Any increase of site raises the point of burst; any decrease lowers it.

If the first salvo bursts on graze at 10 mils or more below, or at 15 mils or more above, an equal change in site should be made to avoid the possibility of exceeding the limits of the corrector scale.

The measurements on which changes in site are based should be as accurate as practicable.

1316. An impact over indicates that the time of burning was too great and that if the trajectory were raised the point of burst would be beyond the target.

An impact short, however, may not be followed by an air burst short if the trajectory is elevated, for it is possible that the corrector is much too low.

When the impact has been observed at a considerable distance short of the target, it may be expected, with good chances of being correct, that the same corrector will give a burst short after the trajectory has been raised.

1317. The advisability of raising the burst center when both rounds of a platoon salvo burst on graze is much less than is the case when all rounds of a battery salvo burst on graze.

1318. When the site is correct, if all the bursts of the first salvo are on graze below or on graze not more than 2 mils above the target the corrector should be raised, using a multiple of 5. If, after raising the corrector, grazes are still obtained, the corrector should be raised by similiar changes from salvo to salvo until air bursts are obtained.

If all the bursts of the first salvo are on graze more than 2 mils above the target, the corrector should not be changed for the next salvo.

1319. Changes in the corrector of 2 mils or less should be based on the observation of at least four air bursts.

Digitized by Google

1320. When indirect laying is employed, an error in the site will cause a corresponding and equal error in height of bursts. As the cause of the latter error may not at first be known, adjustment of the height of burst by changing the corrector may be attempted. If the error in height of burst is not great, it may readily be allowed for in this way; but if it is seen that the necessary correction will exceed the limits of the corrector scale, the total correction which has been applied to the corrector must be transferred in the same sense to the site, and a return to a corrector setting near the normal must be made.

The foregoing emphasizes the importance of determining the site as accurately as possible in the first place. It also shows that when the firing data for indirect laying are passed from a battery in action to one just about to take part, not only the range, but also the corrector and site which have been used with that range in securing the adjustment must be communicated.

Range.

1321. Adjustment for range is usually the most difficult to obtain. One reason for this is that while nearly all rounds fired are observed for direction, distribution, and height of burst, only about 50 per cent of all rounds fired for adjustment on fairly difficult terrain are correctly observed for range. Increased facility and skill in making correct observations for range lead to quicker and more accurate adjustment.

1322. The depth of effect from a single shrapnel is small, as is also the radius of action of the shell.

1323. Against targets without depth there is always a single most effective range. Due to the inherent errors of the matériel, to errors of even well-trained personnel, to the difficulty of making correct observations, and to the fact that most targets do have depth, it is, however, seldom possible to determine one gun range exactly appropriate to a target when using time fire. Moreover, the tactical situation frequently, if not usually, imposes conditions demanding greater or less rapidity in obtaining effect. In all cases accurate adjustment of fire to the narrowest

Digitized by Google

possible limits results in increased effect and saving of ammunition.

1324. The refinement to which fire for adjustment can be carried depends to a great extent on the tactical conditions. But tactical conditions also influence the degree of accuracy with which the fire may be adjusted. For example, the lack of visibility of the target or other conditions affecting observation may oblige the acceptance of a more or less uncertain adjustment. Many targets are able to shelter themselves from fire. Hence early physical effect must be obtained unless moral effect only is sought. In time fire there is necessarily a moment when adjustment must cease, for the most suitable height of burst for producing effect is not a suitable height for observing for range. For all those reasons, then, adjustment for range usually consists in determining two ranges, one of which is less than the true range of the target and one of which is greater. This method determines a **bracket** within which there is some certainty of the target being located. The measure of this certainty is dependent upon the number of **correct** observations at either limit. The depth of the bracket to be sought and the certainty with which the bracket actually contains the target depend upon the technical and tactical conditions and upon the kind of fire used. The same conditions which justify seeking a narrow bracket justify or even require an endeavor to obtain a sufficient number of **correct** observations to make it practically certain that such a bracket contains the target.

1325. Thus there are two questions influencing the degree to which adjustment should be carried. Is it preferable to obtain a very powerful effect, without much regard to time, with a comparatively small amount of ammunition? Or, will it be best to obtain a sufficient effect in a short time without much regard to ammunition? In any case it is to be remembered that a poorly adjusted fire is ineffective.

1326. When a narrow bracket is sought, adjustment should be carried sufficiently far to give confidence that it actually contains the target. On the other hand contentment with a wide bracket, except when such a bracket is imposed by diffi-

Digitized by Google

culties of observation, etc., implies that the definite establishment of the bracket through the correct observation for range of several rounds at each limit is not justifiable if time is thereby sacrificed.

1327. If the target is surely included within the limits of the bracket finally accepted, it may be reached more or less effectively by subsequent fire. The first consideration, then, is to determine that fire at a certain range is surely short of the target, and that fire at another and longer range is surely over the target. A second but very important consideration is to reduce the difference between those two bracketing ranges as much as possible; that is, to obtain the smallest bracket compatible with the circumstances of the case.

1328. If the first range is **short**, the range is increased; if **over**, it is decreased and rounds are fired successively, increased or decreased in range, as the case may be, until the target is bracketed.

Having bracketed the target, the size of the bracket may be successively reduced by halving the last bracket obtained; that is, by firing at the mean of the last two bracketing ranges.

1329. The amount of changes in range for obtaining the first bracket depends upon the accuracy of preparation of fire and the nature of the target.

1330. When ranges are estimated or taken from a map on which the positions of guns and target can not be accurately located, the first bracket should be obtained by changes of 400 yards.

When an accurate range finder has been expertly used, or when the range has been accurately determined by other means, 200-yard changes are appropriate.

1331. In firing over friendly troops near the target the bracket may be obtained by smaller successive changes of range.

1332. No burst should be sensed unless the officer conducting the fire obtains from it information sufficient to form the basis for a definite opinion. If there is any doubt in his mind, the burst should be sensed as **doubtful**. Having once sensed a burst as **short** or **over**, the captain should not hesitate to base a change

Digitized by Google

of range on such sensing; but whenever time or the conditions of observation permit the limits of the brackets, particularly the short limit, should be based upon the sensing of three or more bursts.

1333. Correctly observed bursts indicate a short range more surely when they are low; a long range is more certain when the correctly observed bursts are high.

1334. If the sense of the bursts is **doubtful**, or if the bursts are lost, circumstances must decide whether to change the range or to change only other firing data for the next round.

If the smoke of the fire of other batteries has interfered with observation, a salvo concentrated upon some prominent part of the target may be of assistance.

If the doubt was occasioned by the fact that the bursts were in air and high, it may be well merely to lower the point of burst for the next salvo.

If a salvo is lost, the projectiles have probably burst wide of the target or in a ravine or behind some intervening cover. If the smoke of the bursts does not rise and become visible after a few seconds, the lay of the ground should determine whether to increase or diminish the range or merely to raise the corrector so as to obtain visible bursts in air. Definite information may generally be most quickly obtained in such cases by securing time bursts just above the level of the crests or other cover.

1335. The trajectory may be brought upon the target by changing the site or by diminishing or increasing the range setting. In the latter case, if the site is in error the fuze will be set for a range other than the true range to the target, its time of burning will be too short or too long, and the projectile will burst too high or too low, as the case may be. Modifications of the corrector or of the site will in general be necessary to bring the mean point of burst to the desired height. If the error has been small, it may readily be overcome by a proper use of the corrector.

Heights of burst varying greatly from those expected may be due to large changes in range or to changes in atmospheric

Digitized by Google

conditions. However, when the approximate corrector setting is known, heights of burst which are apparently abnormal may usually be attributed to an erroneous site. If the error has been great, delay may result in the adjustment of height of burst by the use of the corrector. In such a case it may be advisable to change the site, for when it is considerably in error data obtained from firing at one target are of little assistance in ranging upon another. In general, the best results will be obtained by changing that element which is most probably wrong.

If the range has been determined by range finder or other accurate methods, the use of a correct site will greatly increase the probability of early effect upon the target.

1336. In the accurate adjustment of time fire, not only the height but also the burst interval is important; for projectiles bursting too far in front of the target and those bursting in the air above it produces little or no effect. The burst interval is correct when both the range and the height of burst are correctly adjusted. Indications that such is the case are: (1) That the bursts on graze bracket the target; (2) that the mean height of burst is about 3 miles; (3) that fragments from the air bursts strike the ground both in front and rear of the target, and that the pattern made by these fragments, as revealed by the dirt and dust knocked up, is close and dense rather than greatly extended; (4) that obvious effect is produced upon the target.

If doubt exists as to the burst interval, it is best to lower the corrector and get a group of low bursts or bursts on graze.

Observers posted well to the flank of the line of fire may be of the greatest assistance in determining and correcting errors in the burst interval.

1337. At medium ranges a change of 4 mils in the site produces a change of about 100 yards in range; hence, if the site is materially altered, the adjustment of the range will have to be recommenced.

1338. At medium ranges a change of 4 points in the corrector produces a change of about 100 yards in burst range.

Digitized by Google

1339. If physical effect upon the target is observed, the range used is approximately that of the target.

If a bracketing salvo is observed, the range is a little long if the bursts were in the air; approximately correct if the bursts were on graze.

A mixed salvo over indicates too long a range. A mixed salvo of air bursts short indicates an approximately correct range; of graze bursts short, a short range.

1340. The minimum bracket possible of determination depends upon the accuracy of the gun. The establishment of a bracket narrower than the 50 per cent zone is difficult.

The bracket to be used depends upon the tactical situation and conditions of observation.

1341. Against stationary targets—for example, artillery in position or immobilized troops—a bracket of 100 yards should ordinarily be sought.

Against targets moving slowly or capable of slow motion only—for example, heavy Artillery, troops in defiles, convoys—a bracket of 200 yards should be attempted.

Against transient targets—for example, Infantry in action or in bodies that can quickly disperse or seek cover, or machine guns firing—a bracket of 200 yards is usually the narrowest that can be attempted.

Against troops moving or likely to move rapidly in the direction of the range—for example, mounted troops not confined by the terrain—it is usually advisable to bracket by changes of 600 yards in range and to attempt no narrowing of the bracket thus obtained. If the target is approaching, and the long limit of the bracket has been last determined, it is often advisable to fire again at the short limit in order to make sure whether or not the target has passed out of the bracket. If the target is withdrawing and the short limit of the bracket has been last determined, it is often advisable similarly to make certain of the long limit. The use of the range finder is especially important in determining quickly whether a rapidly moving target is approaching or withdrawing.

Digitized by Google

When a reliable range is used, and the situation demands early effect, a bracket of 400 to 600 yards may be assumed, based on the observation of the first salvo.

Against instantaneous targets—for example, observation parties or staffs—no bracket is sought, but time fire is executed over a wide front and great depth at maximum rapidity.

1342. Unless there is actual necessity for early effect, the short limit of a bracket should be based on the observation of more than one round.

1343. It is always permissible in shrapnel fire to base the long limit of a bracket upon a smaller number of observations than is necessary for the short limit.

1344. As the depth of the bracket decreases, so should the number of observations on which each limit is based increase.

1345. If percussion fire is to be used for effect on material objects, called **fire for demolition**, very accurate adjustment of range is required. Such fire is effective at all ranges but, because the probable error in deflection increases and the danger space decreases, while observation grows more difficult as the range becomes longer, effect can often be obtained at the longer ranges only at the expense of much ammunition.

The adjustment on large targets may usually be determined from the effect observed.

For the demolition of Artillery matériel and other targets of low relief, the adjustment in range is never completed, but is carried on to the end of fire for effect. When the 100-yard bracket is definitely determined by at least four observations of rounds fired at each of the limiting ranges, fire is continued at the mid-range of the bracket. Here both **shorts** and **overs** should be observed, and fire is maintained until, of at least eight observations, their numbers are found to be nearly equal or until a decided preponderance of one over the other is established. So long as the **overs** and **shorts** are nearly equal the adjustment is very close and the range should not be changed. But as soon as either **shorts** or **overs** preponderate in a ratio greater than 5 to 3 the range is changed by 25 yards in the appropriate sense. Changes less than 25 yards should not be made.

Digitized by Google

If at any range used before the 100-yard bracket is established, such results are observed as those discussed above for the mid-range of the bracket, the subsequent precedure should likewise depend upon the equality or preponderance of **shorts** and **overs.** If they are equal, or if their ratio is not greater than 5 to 3, firing at that range is continued; if the preponderance is greater than 5 to 3, the range is changed by 50 yards in the appropriate sense, and adjustment is then continued as described.

Percussion fire may be said to be adjusted only when effect is plainly observed, or when, of many rounds fired at a single range, the number of **overs** is equal to or slightly greater than the number of **shorts.**

Method of Fire.

1346. Often the method of fire most suitable for adjustment will conflict with the requirement of very early effect. Refinements of adjustment warn the adversary, thus remove the element of surprise, and prompt him to measures to avoid losses.

Every means must be utilized to simplify the operations of adjustment and shorten their duration.

Fugitive targets may be attacked with high chances of success if the fire is carefully prepared against points and areas likely to be occupied and the data corrected from time to time in accord with the results of actual firing.

1347. The rapidity of fire during adjustment will be controlled by the necessity of observing the shots and setting off the necessary corrections. Rapid and correct decisions and quick commands on the part of the battery commander will increase the rapidity of the adjustment of fire.

1348. The method of fire to be employed depends upon the nature and situation of the target and upon the method of laying.

Against stationary targets—for example, inanimate objectives or troops intrenched or otherwise immobilized—or in registration of fire the adjustment in range, in height of burst, and in distribution is usually secured by salvos.

Against slowly moving targets also—for example, large bodies in column of route or wagon trains—the adjustment is usually secured by salvos.

Digitized by Google

Against rapidly moving targets—for example, Cavalry charging or Artillery changing position—the adjustment is secured by volleys with direct laying, by volleys or salvos with indirect laying.

Against transient targets—for example, Infantry in action in the open or Infantry marching in small bodies or machine guns firing—the adjustment is usually secured by salvos.

1349. The kind of projectile to be used in adjustment is ordinarily the kind that is to be used for effect. The choice depends upon the nature of the target and its situation.

During fire for effect time fire is, as a rule, employed against animate targets, aircraft, searchlights; percussion fire against other inanimate targets.

1350. During adjustment it may become necessary to change from time fire to percussion fire to lessen the probability of hitting friendly troops or for the purpose of narrowing the bracket.

1351. When fire has been adjusted with shrapnel and it is necessary to use shell the mid-range of the bracket is the most appropriate and fire at that range should be continued until at least three rounds have been sensed.

1352. It may be necessary in some cases to assign special targets to certain pieces or to certain platoons. In such cases the chief of section or the chief of platoon conducts the fire of his gun or guns, unless the captain gives other instructions.

Adjustment from Aircraft.

1353. When adjustment must be based on the results of observation communicated from aircraft the various elements of firing data can not usually be corrected simultaneously. By firing with a single piece the deflection may first be adjusted. This is followed by adjustment of the distribution. Then the bracket for range is obtained. Finally, from a consideration of the ratio between air and graze bursts the height of burst may be established.

Effect can not be observed unless it be great but effectiveness of fire may be inferred from the target's movement or effort to obtain cover or from other indications.

Digitized by Google

Fire for Effect.

1354. Every target attacked will present its own problem, which must be solved according to existing conditions and not by adherence to any fixed rule.

1355. Having obtained the desired bracket, no time should be lost in making the area thus inclosed untenable for any hostile force. The adjustment should be continued during fire for effect by constant observation with a view of discarding ranges obviously ineffective, of confining the fire to ranges which appear to be effective, and at the same time, of making such corrections in height of burst, deflection, and distribution as will perfect the adjustment or meet changes in the location or formation of the target. It is to be expected that targets having mobility will not remain immobilized under effective fire. The captain should, therefore, be ready to adapt his adjustment to changing conditions at the target. It will seldom be possible to spend sufficient time and ammunition to obtain an adjustment close enough to justify remaining at a single range during the delivery of fire for effect.

Ranges may be considered effective when it is evident that effect is being produced upon the target; when the great proportion of bursts in air is short of the target and at the proper mean height; when the shrapnel cases are seen to strike at or near the target; when dust, if seen at all, is knocked up by the bullets both in front and in rear of the target.

1356. Only direct hits are effective against material targets or shielded batteries when percussion fire is used.

Range.

1357. In time fire, the short and long limits of the bracket determined during the initial adjustment should be considered as inclosing an area to be covered during fire for effect at successive ranges. This can be accomplished by opening fire for effect and using either successive increments or successive decrements so that the target will be covered at one or more of the ranges used. The officer conducting fire may be able to

Digitized by Google

form an opinion as to which are the most effective ranges. The first range differences should usually be 100 yards, but when the area has been narrowed as a result of observation they may be reduced to 50 yards.

1358. In firing at moving targets the first range used should ordinarily be that limit of the bracket toward which the target is moving.

The first range appropriate for other targets depends upon consideration of the purposes of the fire for effect, the conditions of observation, the position of friendly troops.

1359. A bracketing battery salvo indicates an effective range. When such a salvo gives sufficient indication of the corrector and conditions demand immediate effect, fire for effect should be opened at that range and reliance placed upon observation of such fire to determine whether or not it is actually effective. When the corrector is not established and when certainty of adjustment is more important than immediate effect, the adjustment should be continued, using the same range. In any case care must be taken lest the bracketing salvo be due, in part at least, to the obliquity of the target.

1360. The uncertainty of a bracket may be compensated for by searching a greater depth than that indicated by the observations, but the principle should only be applied to those cases demanding immediate effect.

If tactical or other conditions make it desirable to open fire for effect upon a bracket the short limit of which is based upon the observation of a single round, fire should be first delivered throughout the observed bracket. Observation of effect from fire at the short limit of the bracket indicates that the bracket is appropriate; if such effect is not observed, a range 100 yards short of the short limit must be included in the fire for effect.

1361. In general, the seeking of a 200-yard bracket, or greater, indicates that fire for effect should be opened as soon as one observation at each limit has been obtained.

1362. When the short limit of a 200-yard or greater bracket is based upon the observation of two or more rounds, a range short of the near limit is rarely necessary.

Digitized by Google

1363. Whatever the number of observations, it is not necessary to fire for effect with shrapnel to include ranges beyond the observed long limit. If the number of observed overs is two, the long limit may be included; and if the overs are less than two, the long limit should be included, unless the bracket is as small as 100 yards or less.

1364. The searching of areas is never to be resorted to unless it can be definitely determined that the enemy is actually located within the area selected, and unless he would evidently exercise a material influence upon the progress of the combat if left undisturbed by fire.

1365. When time fire over friendly troops must cease will depend upon the range, the terrain, and the conditions of observation.

In firing over friendly troops advancing to the assault, fire at the target should cease upon a suitable signal from the Infantry that the fire is dangerous. The range may be increased to hinder the bringing up of hostile supports or to cause losses should the enemy fall back.

At medium ranges over level ground the danger space to Infantry from well-adjusted time fire extends for a distance of about 300 yards in front of the target. This distance becomes less if the ground rises toward the target, greater if it falls toward it.

Height of Burst.

1366. If the adjustment of the distribution and of the height of burst have not been completed, bold changes with a view of adjusting them should be made, the rate of fire for effect being reduced, if necessary, to permit this adjustment.

If doubt is occasioned by the fact that other batteries are firing at the same target, a salvo or volley with projectiles of type different from that in use by the other batteries will usually be recognizable.

1367. When the height is maintained between 2 and 4 mils, the effect varies but little. Outside of these limits the effect diminishes very rapidly. A constant error of 3 mils in estima-

Digitized by Google

tion of height of burst is equivalent to the loss of several caissons.

1368. For effect, a height of burst which is somewhat low is superior to one which is somewhat high.

1369. In passing from fire for adjustment to fire for effect the corrector should be raised by mils if during adjustment there have been three bursts below the target to one above and by 3 mils if the bursts below have been equal to those above the target. If only one round has burst below the target to three above, no change should be made in the corrector.

1370. During time fire for effect about one-fifth to one-ninth of the bursts should be on graze, and the greater the range the greater should be the proportion of graze bursts.

1371. If the area to be searched is not deep and the slope not great, a mean value of the site may be taken, and a corrector used which will give low bursts at the near limit of the area if the slope is away from the guns, and bursts slightly above the normal if the slope is toward the guns. This method will always be used if great rapidity is desired. For searching long and steep slopes, however, it is better to use the site of the near limit of the area to be searched and vary the corrector from volley to volley or salvo to salvo, raising it if searching up the slope or lowering it if searching down the slope.

Distribution.

1372. Exact distribution facilitates observation of fire, increases probable effect, and indicates good fire discipline.

1373. In fire for demolition, all projectiles which are not exact in direction are lost.

In fire against personnel, considerable latitude may be allowed in the adjustment in direction.

1374. The fire of a battery is usually distributed over the front assigned it for attack.

When time fire is employed the following considerations are to be borne in mind:

(a) If the front to be attacked does not much exceed 12 mils in width, it is sufficient to converge upon the center of this

Digitized by Google

front, as the dispersion of fire, when a considerable number of rounds is fired, will provide for covering the full front.

(b) Fronts which do not much exceed 35 mils may be covered effectively by a battery without sweeping.

(c) If the front much exceeds 35 mils, it may be divided into sections and each section attacked in turn, or sweeping may be employed. The choice depends upon the nature of the target and the circumstances of the case.

1375. In shrapnel time fire the right piece is directed not upon the right edge of the target but upon a point about 10 yards inside of the right edge. To direct the left gun upon a corresponding point inside the left edge, the divisor of the front of the target is the number of guns firing, not that number decreased by one (**1190**).

1376. Knowing the width of his target in mils, the battery commander quickly decides whether to employ converging fire, fire without sweeping, or fire with sweeping.

In the latter two cases he secures distribution by directing each gun upon one-fourth of the front to be attacked.

If direct laying is to be employed, he indicates clearly to the chiefs of section the outer limits of the target, if these limits are not in themselves obvious; and each chief of section points out to his gunner the part of the target on which his gun is to be initially laid.

If indirect laying is to be employed, a distribution difference equal to one-fourth of the front in mils is used.

1377. When the mean height of burst of shrapnel is well adjusted, each gun is expected to cover effectively a front of 20 yards if one round is fired, 25 if two are fired.

The construction of the carriage permits a traverse of about 70 mils on either side of the axial line.

As sweeping fire is especially adapted for use in cases when the fire has been carefully prepared upon definite hostile positions, time may be afforded for giving the initial direction with the gun set at the extreme right traverse, if necessary. The full traverse on the carriage may thus be utilized; but it is not con-

Digitized by Google

templated that a single gun will be given such a width of front to attack as to make this necessary.

1378. One turn of the traversing handwheel shifts the point of burst approximately 8 mils.

Therefore, in sweeping fire the front in mils covered by each peace will be equal to eight times the number of rounds in the sweep; the front in yards covered will depend upon the range.

The number of rounds to be fired in the sweep by turns of the handwheel is determined by dividing by 8 the number of mils in the front assigned to each gun to attack. If the quotient obtained is not exact, but consists of a whole number and a large fraction, then the next higher whole number is taken.

At 2,500 yards range well-adjusted sweeping fire will cover the front assigned completely. At longer ranges the front will not be completely covered, while at shorter ranges the sheaves of successive rounds will overlap.

For the attack of a large front two methods are applicable: (1) To divide the front up into equal parts and attack these parts in turn; (2) to form the sheaf at the outset so that it will cover the whole front and fire a sufficient number of rounds sweeping to cover the entire front.

If volley fire is to be used, the circumstances must decide which method is preferable. If time is not afforded for deliberate preparation, the first method is usually preferable; but if time is thus afforded, then the second method may often be found advantageous.

If the target is very oblique, different ranges may be assigned the different guns.

1379. Sweeping by turns of the handwheel is wasteful of ammunition when there is lost motion in the traversing mechanism, and should not then be attempted.

1380. Sweeping is preferably accomplished by the use of sights whose reticules have horizontal scales. Such scales are graduated in divisions of 5 mils, not numbered. At ranges up to 2,500 yards the line of sight is shifted 10 mils to the left after each round; above 2,500 yards each shift is by 5 mils.

48351°—16——10

Digitized by Google

The number of rounds required by this method is determined as for the other (1378), using as a divisor 10 or 5, as the case may be, instead of 8.

1381. Not more than four rounds should ordinarily be fired in any one volley sweeping.

1382. When **percussion fire** is employed, the nature of the target determines whether converging or distributed fire is to be employed.

If the target to be attacked has a continuous front, e. g., walls, obstacles, etc., this front may be divided up into sections of 10 mils each and the sections attacked in turn, each gun taking its proportionate part. If the target has a much smaller front than 10 mils, the fire may be converged upon its center. If the target consists of artillery, each gun may be assigned a corresponding gun, depending upon the amount of artillery available.

Method of Fire.

1383. The rapidity with which fire for effect should be conducted depends principally upon the tactical situation. After adjustment has been obtained the volume of fire may be increased by increasing the number of pieces or by firing in more rapid succession than is practicable during fire for adjustment or by increasing the number of rounds in each volley.

Rapidity of fire must never be so great as to prevent fuzes being exactly set and the guns accurately laid, or otherwise to interfere with the work of the gun squads.

Deliberate fire is more accurate than a more rapid fire.

Great rapidity of fire is permissible only for a short time. The expenditure of ammunition is otherwise too great.

1384. The rapidity of fire of independent guns or platoons may be increased as much as possible to deceive the enemy regarding the number of guns in action. At times it may be advantageous to repeat the same range several times so as to give the impression that volley fire is being used by one or more batteries.

1385. Fire by salvos or volleys at successive ranges permits the captain to adapt the corrector to the slopes of the terrain.

Digitized by Google

1386. Volley fire is adapted especially to the attack of fugitive targets that are more or less vulnerable. The special characteristic of this method of fire is its great flexibility and rapidity. The number of volleys to be fired, their range difference, the number of rounds in each volley, are all in the hands of the officer conducting the fire. By suitable manipulation of the sheaf he may readily shift the fire from point to point of the terrain, as necessity may require, and by adapting the bursts of fire to meet the crises of the action he may utilize the ammunition to the best advantage.

1387. While salvos are adapted especially to securing the adjustment of fire, they may also be used for producing effect, especially with the idea of obtaining at the same time additional information on which to base a closer adjustment of the fire. They are employed according to the principles of volley fire.

1388. Fire at will is employed solely for the close defense of the guns.

Against a slowly moving enemy, such as infantry, the fire should be commenced when he has arrived within about 350 yards of the gun; against a rapidly moving enemy, such as cavalry, when he has arrived within about 800 yards; the purpose in both cases being surely to establish a fire-swept zone through which the enemy must pass in order to reach the guns.

1389. Against Infantry in position and more or less protected by entrenchments the intensity of the fire should be regulated to suit the necessities of the case, as our Infantry advances to the attack, being slow or ceasing entirely while the enemy is concealed or inactive, rising to great intensity when the crises of the action develop and the enemy exposes himself to meet them. Salvos may be used for the ordinary phases of the action, volleys for the crises, the object being to assist our own Infantry by inflicting as much damage as possible upon the enemy; by destroying his morale; by forcing him to keep under cover; and by preventing effective fire upon his part.

1390. Against Artillery in position, the first object is to gain the ascendancy over it by inflicting as much damage as possible upon the personnel. Immediately effective fire is particularly

Digitized by Google

demanded if the enemy can be attacked at a disadvantage, as, for example, while limbering or unlimbering. Obtaining a bracket as small as the conditions justify, searching the depth of the bracket, carefully observing the fire, and securing as promptly as possible an accurate adjustment are the means to be ordinarily employed in attacking the personnel.

Due to the difficulty, however, of reaching effectively the personnel of batteries provided with shields and posted in masked positions, the struggle between evenly matched artilleries will often be long drawn out. If the enemy's artillery is temporarily overmatched, it may suspend its fire and shelter its personnel; but it must be expected to renew the struggle as soon as the pressure upon it is relieved. The aim must be to gain the superiority of fire by suitable concentrations of effect on the part of our own Artillery; the opportunity may then be gained to destroy the enemy's matériel by well-adjusted shell fire.

1391. A slowly moving target, such as Infantry, or mounted troops impeded in their march, may be quickly bracketed by salvos and then attacked by searching fire.

Infantry in march formation may be thus attacked, but immediate deployment on their part is to be anticipated, and the officer conducting the fire should be prepared to reach them, probably behind cover, with a well-distributed fire.

Infantry moving to attack in deployed lines, a succession of thin lines, or in line of small columns may be met by volleys successively reduced in range as the infantry approaches. If their formation is in line of small columns, the fire should be distributed so that a piece or platoon may bear upon each of the columns.

At close ranges infantry will probably endeavor to advance by successive rushes from cover to cover. Such rushes may be met by volleys previously prepared for upon selected positions, evidently in the immediate path of the enemy. If the positions occupied by important bodies of the enemy during the intervals of advance are well defined, accurately adjusted fire may be brought to bear upon such positions, and the ground between successive positions may be covered by searching fire when im-

Digitized by Google

portant movements of the enemy from one position to another are attempted.

1392. In the case of a rapidly approaching or withdrawing target, fire should be adjusted upon the target itself if practicable. A bracket of 600 yards will ordinarily be quickly obtained and volley fire at successive ranges will be opened. The initial range for effect should be one toward which the target is moving, an ample allowance being made for the motion of the target.

A target having once been brought under effective fire, its subsequent movements may be followed by volleys varying in range and direction, according to the rate and direction of march of the target.

If adjustment upon the target is impracticable, some point or area may be selected which the target is expected to pass. In this case a broad bracket of the point or area is determined and fire for effect is opened when the target enters it.

1393. The application of the methods of fire previously explained should be practiced by the solution of theoretical and practical problems. The variety of such problems is so great that examples of their solution can not be given to cover all possible cases.

SECTION XIII.—UNITS IN OBSERVATION.

1394. In preparation for definite and imminent phases of an action, certain bodies of Artillery may be ordered to observe the enemy in designated portions of the terrain and be ready to bring him under immediately effective fire.

If possible, the position of the enemy is clearly pointed out; but if his exact position within a certain area has not been determined the area may be divided into sectors and a sector assigned to each important group of artillery. In the former case the firing data are determined for the known position of the enemy; in the latter case, for prominent features of the terrain within the sector assigned.

With a view of being prepared for instant action, the guns may be laid upon the target or upon some selected feature of

Digitized by Google

the terrain and the sheaf formed so as to provide for the desired distribution.

1395. Trenches should be dug for the trails wide enough to permit them to be shifted through the probable arc of fire.

The safe arc of fire may be taken as 45° on either side of the normal to the battery front, the presumption being that the guns are well aligned. In all cases, however, it is the duty of the chiefs of section to see that their pieces are not fired when pointed at a dangerous angle with respect to other pieces.

1396. To form the sheaf, an aiming point is selected, a deflection is given the directing piece which will cause it to be directed upon its section of the target or upon the registration mark, and a deflection difference is employed which will suffice to distribute the fire over the desired front.

If the position of the enemy is known and all necessary data have been obtained, the pieces may be at once loaded.

If the exact position in which the enemy will appear is not known, then on his appearance the necessary corrections in data must be quickly measured or estimated and set off. If the range finder can not be used, the correction in range is obtained by estimating the target's distance from the selected registration marks; the correction in deflection by measuring the angle from the registration mark to the section of the target which is to be attacked by the directing piece and correcting it, if necessary (1196). The circumstances of the case must decide whether the pieces are to be loaded before the target appears.

1397. In the general case the initial opening of the sheaf giving best promise of immediate observation of range is a distribution 10 mils greater than for parallel fire. Such a sheaf also entirely precludes cross fire.

But in particular cases, when conditions are such as to insure accuracy in determination of the deflection and deflection difference, the opening may be made suitable to the nature of the target.

Thus, if the enemy's artillery is the expected target, a parallel formation of the sheaf may be preferable; if lines of Infan-

Digitized by Google

try are to be attacked, a more open formation may be appropriate; if the head of a column is expected to appear, a converged sheaf may be suitable.

If, in order to assist our own Infantry, the Artillery is called upon to repress the activity of a long line of hostile Infantry in position, each battery may be required to act over a wide front. Good judgment and great versatility in the employment of fire are called for under such circumstances, in order that the desired results may be obtained without undue expenditure of ammunition in the earlier phases of the attack. Means may be employed to keep the entire hostile line under the menace of fire, single guns being freely used to repress special activity of the enemy in the sections assigned to such guns.

Section XIV.—Targets.

1898. Targets usually belong to one of the following classes:

(*a*) Obstacles, intrenchments.
(*b*) Localities.
(*c*) Woods.
(*d*) Reconnaissance and staff parties.
(*e*) Observers, signalmen, telephonists.
(*f*) Cavalry.
(*g*) Artillery.
(*h*) Infantry.
(*i*) Machine-gun groups.
(*j*) Aerial targets.

Obstacles—Intrenchments.

1899. Many obstacles may be destroyed by light artillery, but always at the price of a large expenditure of ammunition; they are attacked by high-explosive shell or percussion shrapnel.

Defenders behind stone walls may best be reached by demolition of the walls.

Earthworks can only be damaged. The fire directed on them should be destined only for the defenders who are sheltered by them; percussion shrapnel or high-explosive shell will be used.

Digitized by Google

Localities.

1400. Localities are attacked with a view of inflicting losses on the troops that are believed to be assembled there, or to render them untenable by the demolition of buildings, to which incendiary effect may sometimes be added.

They are attacked by the percussion fire of high-explosive projectiles or by low bursting time shrapnel.

While light-artillery shell permits the accomplishment of the result sought, the shell of heavy artillery containing more explosive can produce a greater disorganization of high substantial buildings and of compact groups.

Woods.

1401. If the borders are occupied, woods are attacked with time fire.

When it is desired to reach troops concealed in the interior of a wood they are attacked with percussion fire.

Reconnaissance and Staff Parties.

1402. These are very important targets, vulnerable, but furnishing only fleeting opportunities.

Time fire is executed over a wide front, with a long bracket and maximum rapidity.

Personnel of Command, Observers, Signalmen, Telephonists.

1403. These are important targets of variable vulnerability. They present a certain fixedness. The front covered is narrow, and the bracket is reduced more and more. Time fire is used, followed by percussion fire if the target is on an observing ladder.

Cavalry.

1404. Cavalry is very vulnerable at a halt and when in close formations. It protects itself against artillery fire through its mobility and dispersion.

Digitized by Google

If the cohesion of the hostile cavalry is destroyed, and its dispersion is compelled, the results may be considered as serious to it and advantageous to the friendly Cavalry. If it suffers some losses in both men and horses and is put in fear of crossing certain areas, the results will generally be the maximum that artillery may hope to secure.

To this end, time or percussion fire is used, and all measures are taken to increase the rapidity of fire. If the firing unit is not placed so as to have a direct view of the target, the sheaf is opened and fire over a deep bracket is commenced when the cavalry enters the area under observation. If direct laying can be used the target is followed by all the pieces, a wide bracket is sought and then searched by volley fire, commencing at the limit which the target is approaching.

The opportunity of firing on cavalry will be fugitive; the fire of short duration. The maximum rapidity of fire is essential whether by time or percussion. When Cavalry directs its attack against a battery, the battery will act advantageously in establishing a barrier by percussion or time fire in front of the enemy's line.

Artillery.

1405. Artillery presents targets widely varing in vulnerability.

The greatest vulnerability exists from the commencement of the reconnaissance until the occupation of the hostile position is accomplished; that is, up to the moment that the enemy's artillery is ready to fire.

Effective fire on reconnaissance parties may cause important delays in the occupation of position by a battery, and may deprive that artillery of its commander or embarass communication.

Effective fire at the moment of occupation of position by a battery may produce losses and such disorder that it will only recover with difficulty. Its retirement from under fire is also a most critical moment, especially when the retirement is made by an entire unit.

Digitized by Google

If the firing unit is in position and the hostile pieces are seen at effective range, a great consumption of projectiles will not be needed to destroy its matériel. The number of projectiles required to hit one of the carriages of a section varies with the range and the conditions of observation. The average is about 15 or 30, according as the target is at 2,500 or 3,500 yards range. Besides, fire for the demolition of matériel is effective against the personnel.

If the pieces are not seen, if they are at a distant range, if the direction of the objective is known by its flashes only, or by the dust raised by its fire, fire for demolition can not be employed without risking the expenditure of an unwarranted number of projectiles; but such artillery has nevertheless a certain vulnerability to time fire. There are always observers who are incompletely sheltered and who are less so, generally, when the artillery is firing. Furthermore, the shields will not confer absolute protection on all who are sheltered by them. The effect obtainable from time fire is increased when the batteries against which it is directed are under an oblique fire. Finally, impact bursts may reach the cannoneers whatever may be their position.

A sufficient recession from the covering crest or from the mask renders an objective absolutely immune; for it is impossible to attack an indefinite depth of terrain. On the other hand, the greater the distance from the mask which the enemy is forced to take the more difficult become hostile communication and command. It is advisable to form an opinion, from all indications observable, as to the depth of the zone that may reasonably be supposed to contain the target. In certain cases this will be definitely known, in others simply estimated. The conclusion will indicate the expenditure of ammunition that may be required to produce a probable effect. The urgency of producing the probable effect will govern the decision.

1406. The varying conditions indicate the following principles governing conduct of fire against an artillery target.

If priority in occupation of position is obtained, careful observation is made of indications of the enemy's reconnaissance

Digitized by Google

and occupation of positions. At the moment of these operations time fire is opened through a large bracket, over a broad front, at maximum rapidity. This will be repeated, if necessary, the adjustment being refined.

If priority of occupation is not obtained, or if the opportunity of firing at the moment of hostile reconnaissance and occupation of position has been allowed to pass a different procedure is advisable.

When the pieces of the hostile artillery are visible, time fire should be used at first to reach the uncovered personnel and to produce a demoralizing effect. This effect is then extended to the personnel under cover by the use of time fire, the limits of the bracket being reduced as much as possible, and the front covered being limited to the actual front of the target. The effort is continued to destroy the personnel and then the demolition of the matériel by percussion fire is attempted. Fire is delivered on all visible pieces as accurately as possible and continued until the results sought are obtained, unless another attack should demand the attention of the battery, or unless the scarcity of ammunition demands the exercise of economy in that respect, or unless the range is so great as to prevent the carrying out of fire for demolition. In such a case a subunit of the battery may remain ready to fire should the target again manifest activity.

When the hostile pieces are not visible their presence may be disclosed by the flashes, by the dust raised by fire or by other indications. The method of attacking them is similar to that just described, except that study of maps and terrain must be made to establish the far limit of the bracket, the near limit being the covering mask, and that fire for demolition can not be usually undertaken. If it proves impossible to reduce the limits of such a bracket, and should there be uncertainty as to the effect produced on the target, it is advisable to await the appearance of new indications. These should be most carefully observed in order to take advantage of any opportunity that may be offered. The firing unit remains in observation of the target and a minute search is made for its observers

Digitized by Google

or its battery commander's station. If these are discovered, efforts should be made to destroy them.

1407. Fire for demolition requires great accuracy in range and direction, thereby necessitating careful observation of each round from each piece. Its employment is permissible only when the nature of the target indicates that fire for demolition must be carried out and when the number of batteries at hand is such as to limit the front to be attacked to about 100 yards per battery. If the target is such that fire for demolition is not admissible, one battery will give a sufficient volume of time shrapnel fire against an artillery target, however dense it may be, provided the front does not exceed 200 yards.

Infantry.

1408. Infantry, like artillery, offers targets of variable vulnerability. But while the artillery of the enemy once in place constitutes a definite target, whose only important modifications are that it may pass from action to inaction, sheltering or exposing more or less of the personnel, the infantry target changes form, dimensions, density, and sometimes position from one instance to another. An artillery target may sometimes be destroyed; it is practically impossible to destroy a body of infantry, whose elements avoid fire individually and may sustain fire almost without loss.

Finally, it may be said that artillery is proportionally small in quantity, and that, by reason of the power of even a single piece, each unit or subunit which is seen or is firing is of sufficient importance to be attacked, while the Infantry exists in very large numbers, is almost everywhere, but is in fractions of small importance. Because of their weakness these small fractions do not attract fire, or by their multiplicity oblige those who wish to fire against them to disperse their fire. Fire against Infantry targets will often fail to produce great losses, but other results may be expected.

On the defensive, the assailant may be obliged to deploy at a distance, to scatter his units, to seek defiladed routes, to hesitate to traverse the fire-swept zones or to traverse them only

Digitized by Google

at serious loss. Later our own Infantry by stopping the enemy will transform him into a fixed target of considerable density and vulnerability.

On the offensive, the defender may be held to his cover, prevented from firing when it is to his interest to do so, deprived of the use of certain points of support, and restrained in the effective use of his supports and reserves.

1409. Generally such results will be obtained by firing a few projectiles at a time, using the proper method of fire, as often as opportunities offer, taking into consideration the amount of ammunition on hand, the rapidity of progress of the general action, and the approach of the assault.

As the crisis approaches, the Infantry will become more and more numerous until the height of the combat is reached. In order not to develop uselessly all the Artillery and to have all the Artillery ready to resist surprises, it will be advantageous, so long as the situation is not fully developed, to engage against the Infantry and Artillery only the necessary number of guns. By the use of suitable units and methods of fire, and by firing first on one part then on another part of the front assigned him, a captain may effectively attack infantry operating on a front of from 300 to 600 yards.

Due to the great variety of cases which may arise, only the most general instructions can be laid down for the conduct of fire against Infantry. The best guaranty of well-conducted fire is to be found in the ability of the captain. He should have self-reliance, good judgment, keen tactical sense, quick decision, thorough knowledge of the capabilities of the matériel and great experience in command.

Machine Guns.

1410. Machine-gun groups have much the nature of infantry attacking, but they are of greater importance than small fractions of infantry on account of their great volume of fire. If they are discovered to be firing they should be attacked with time fire over a broad front and a deep bracket. Under the best conditions of observation from a station near the guns the

Digitized by Google

bracket can not usually be reduced below 200 yards. Owing to the ability of the personnel to disperse and to seek cover, the fire must be rapid. Once forced to cease firing, the area containing the machine guns should be kept under close observation, with a view of preventing resumption of their service or their withdrawal for use elsewhere.

Aerial Targets.

1411. Fire against targets in the air generally requires the assignment of particular units to the purpose, the digging of circular trenches about 36 inches deep for the trails to permit the use of high angles of elevation, the provision, if practicable, of platforms for the carriages, and the organization of a system of lateral observation with means of sure communication between observers and battery commander's station.

1412. Captive balloons are very vulnerable within the limits of the trajectory and the action of the fuzes. They have slight motion within narrow limits, and are attacked by direct laying with time shrapnel. It is indispensable that the rounds be correct for deflection. Ranging is commenced, unless the range can be measured, at the long limit of the fuze to ascertain whether the balloon is within time-fire distance, and the bracket is obtained and fire for effect conducted by the usual methods except that for effect the burst height should be greater than normal to insure wide dispersion in the shrapnel cone. When a range finder is used, a bracket may be assumed on the basis of the first observations for range.

Dirigibles and aeroplanes are vulnerable. Direct laying is used with time shrapnel. Each platoon is fired separately, one beginning at the far limit, the other at the short limit, of an estimated bracket as wide as 2,000 or 3,000 yards. Each fires volleys of one or two rounds at ranges differing by 200 yards, the successive ranges approaching the center of the bracket. When the bracket has been covered or when lateral observations indicate that the target is out of the bracket the process is repeated.

Digitized by Google

If the range finder is used, a narrower bracket may be attempted.

As aircraft may readily change their direction, height, and speed, deflection and corrector changes will usually be necessary during firing. Essentials of success are rapidity and accuracy in service of the piece, skillful operation of the range finder, and, on the part of the officers conducting the fire, quick decision and command and boldness in changing ranges without delay.

Targets with Respect to Terrain.

1413. Targets may also be considered with respect to the nature of the terrain on which they are situated.

An enemy entering the dead space existing in front of a battery can not be attacked by ordinary means. Some effect may be obtained by causing the projectile to burst on the trajectory which corresponds to the minimum range. This may be done by raising the corrector by 5 points at a time. If the corrector scale is not sufficient, it may be left constant, and the expedient may be used of increasing the site by successive increments of 5 mils each and by decreasing the range 200 yards for each increment of 5 mils. This decreases the range to point of burst by an amount roughly corresponding to an equal change of the corrector. This kind of fire is appreciably effective only within very narrow limits.

The effect is always inferior to that obtainable with the true trajectory of the target and is dependent upon the minimum range and the profile of the terrain below the trajectory. On a horizontal terrain with site 0, range 2,000, the effect may be considerable, even when the target is under the highest part of the trajectory. If the range is greater than 2,000 yards, and the burst center is raised, the effect decreases rapidly and ceases to be appreciable when the target has penetrated the dead space a very short distance.

If the terrain falls off abruptly beyond the mask, the minimum range at which effect may be obtained by the above methods rapidly decreases.

Digitized by Google

1414. A target scattered over a glacis sloping down toward the battery can not be equally affected by time fire in all its parts unless the points of burst are kept at a constant and effective height above the terrain. This may be realized by simultaneous changes of the range and corrector in the same sense. The relation between the variations of the two elements is not constant but depends on the inclination of the glacis, and may be best controlled by careful observation of the proportion of bursts obtained on graze.

The case is similar if it is attempted to follow a target up or down such a slope.

Difficulties may usually be avoided without great loss of effectiveness by adjusting the corrector on a point at mid-height of the slope and using it unchanged until the site has been considerably altered.

1415. A target marked by a crest may always be attacked as though it had considerable depth. To overcome the effect of the slope of the terrain increases of range must be accomplished by lowering of the corrector. The steeper the slope the less will the range be changed and the more the corrector.

For example, if the terrain has a slope of 60 mils, increasing the range setting by 50 yards and lowering the corrector by 2 mils will increase the burst range by about 100 yards; if the slope is 90 mils, a range increase of 25 yards and a corrector diminution of 3 mils will cause a change of about 100 yards in burst range. The height of burst above the point of impact will not be materially changed in either case.

If percussion fire is used, range changes to correspond to 100-yard bounds on flat terrain must be less than 100 yards, the amount depending upon the steepness of the slope. Slopes greater than the angle of fall can not be struck by percussion fire.

1416. Percussion fire of shrapnel may be very effective against animate objects beyond a crest on slopes giving bursts on ricochet. At 3,000 yards ricochet may be expected from slopes of 50 mils or more. The slope most favorable for effect is one of about 115 mils. However, both ricochets and effect are greatly

Digitized by Google

influenced by the character of the soil. When effect by such fire can be obtained it is possible to avoid complicated changes of corrector to overcome the influence of slopes.

1417. Against a target whose elements are at the same range but in different planes of site the site is varied among the guns.

Against a target whose elements are in the same plane of site but at different ranges the elevations of the pieces may be varied correspondingly. But this must be regarded as exceptional, a suitable method of attack being by successive volleys, with less than the usual range changes, throughout the bracket inclosing the whole target.

SECTION XV.—FIRING IN THE BATTALION.

1418. The duties of the battalion commander are mainly tactical.

He informs the battery commanders as to the tactical situation, the mission of the battalion, and the rôle of each battery. The more detailed this information the more surely may the major rely upon correct initiative by his captains when communication fails.

1419. The rôle assigned to a battery should be given broadly, leaving to the captain within his sphere a full power of initiative and fixing upon him a definite responsibility.

1420. The major should conserve his force by assigning to a particular task only so many of his units as should accomplish it with their maximum power. He may thus be able to retain at his disposal other units to meet contingencies not yet developed.

1421. In some cases, as when the major is far away from a battery commander's station, the designation of a target will be very difficult. The use of two or more easily identified reference points facilitates the designation of objectives. But it may be necessary for the major to calculate the firing data for his position and to transform it for use at the captain's station.

1422. It is certain that under fire communication will be interrupted or at least delayed. It may be renewed during lulls

Digitized by Google

in the action. Rapid and effective communication requires that the major and his captains easily understand one another, and that common, concise expressions for identical thoughts be practiced. This becomes particularly necessary in order that the major may be replaced by one of the captains without causing a failure of fire direction.

It is likewise necessary that the personnel be imbued with a common doctrine of offense and defense and have a thorough knowledge of the conduct of fire appropriate to various targets.

Under such conditions only may the action of the battalion be expected to proceed with the greatest effectiveness and without demoralizing interference of higher commanders in the conduct of fire.

1423. During adjustment the battalion commander's duties will usually be limited at first to the correction of errors in identifying targets, and to the prevention of interference between the batteries. It will be impossible for him to follow the adjustment of more than one of his batteries.

As the action progresses he should form an opinion as to the effectiveness of the fire by particular batteries and upon particular targets. He must cause his captains to conform the rapidity and duration of their fire to the results that are desired. **If he finds it necessary to intervene in the conduct of fire, he thereby assumes personal responsibility for the results.**

In general, the major will devote his attention principally to the assignment of targets, to the observation and study of the terrain and of the situation; to the digestion of information received from higher commanders, friendly troops and auxiliary observers; to reports to the regimental commander regarding changes of the situation; to amplifying the information already furnished to his subordinates and to rendering them every possible assistance; to keeping open the lines of communication; to preparation for the effective use of unengaged batteries; to maintenance of the supply of ammunition.

1424. The simultaneous adjustment of two or more batteries upon a target or within a small area is very difficult. It is to be avoided by adjustment in turn, or by the assignment of par-

Digitized by Google

ticular adjusting points, when concentration of fire by several batteries becomes necessary. It is simplified by the transference of data from one battery to another and by the deliberate and accurate calculation of data.

Adjustment upon a target already under fire for effect is still more difficult. Either the unit firing should increase the volume of its fire sufficiently to accomplish the object desired or it should cease firing until the new unit has adjusted.

1425. Frequent changes of target materially reduce effect. Except in emergency, the mission of a battery at the moment should be completed before a new target is assigned.

The right of a battery commander on his own responsibility to change target to meet sudden changes in the situation, when communication has been interrupted or in the belief that the major can not be early enough informed, should not be abridged.

SECTION XVI.—NIGHT FIRING.

1426. If the target area is illuminated by searchlights, firing may be conducted against targets of all kinds the same as by daylight up to the effective range of the lights. It will often be necessary to fire as at instantaneous targets to take advantage of brief periods of illumination.

1427. If searchlights are attached to an Artillery unit, they should be established on high points well to the front and flanks, if possible. Telephonic communication should be established, so that the light beam may be directed and held upon the target. By using two searchlights the illumination may be intensified or the illuminated area increased in size, or one may be used to search for targets while the other directs its beam upon one already under observation.

In attacking searchlights the same methods are used as in attacking captive balloons.

1428. If searchlights are not available, preparation of fire should, if possible, be made before dark. Fire should be at different ranges, the number used depending upon the degree of accuracy reached in preparation of fire, and upon the depth of the area to be kept under fire.

Digitized by Google

1429. Preparation of fire will be most reliable if the battery, or at least part of the guns, can be placed in position before dark. If this is not possible, the necessary measurements and calculations must be made during daylight with the greatest possible accuracy.

1430. Range and corrector setting are best obtained by fire for adjustment during the day. If this is impracticable the range must be determined from the map or from range-finder measurements. Heights of burst may be adjusted with sufficient accuracy at night, if the aiming circle or telescope can be set up and adjusted before dark.

1431. To permit of turning fire upon different targets or areas, direction is taken by daylight to a principal registration point, using the guns themselves or the aiming circle. The angular distances from this point to the various targets or target areas are then measured and recorded, and also the breadth of front of each. If guns have been placed in position, it is well to verify the directions by registration shots.

1432. These data will be entered on a sketch; each target or area will be designated by a letter, care being taken not to use letters of similar sound, and opposite each target will be noted the range, site, corrector setting, deflection from the registration point, and breadth of front.

Copies of this sketch will be made for all Artillery commanders concerned. Additional copies will be given to auxiliary observers, who will make their reports by reference to the sketch, using lantern signals or wire communications.

The position will be reconnoitered by daylight, and the line of the front and the positions of the guns marked, preferably by a white strip with short crosspieces.

If the preparations can not be made before dark, it is impracticable to fire at all, except at illuminated targets. For this purpose an auxiliary observer on a flank is necessary, with whose assistance a broad bracket is obtained, and fire for effect opened upon the bracket with ranges differing by 100 yards. Ranges should be eliminated or added, according to the reports of the auxiliary observer.

Digitized by Google

1433. For night firing, stakes carrying lanterns may be provided as aiming points. Similar stakes may be used by observers to fix the directions to targets. Sights must be illuminated.

CHAPTER VII.—TARGET PRACTICE.

1434. Target practice includes—

(*a*) Pistol practice.

(*b*) Subcaliber practice.

(*c*) Service practice.

Pistol Practice.

1435. Pistol practice will be conducted as prescribed for Field Artillery in the Small-Arms Firing Manual.

Subcaliber Practice.

1436. Subcaliber ammunition will be used for perfecting units in fire discipline and for practicing officers and men in all the mechanisms of fire. To attain these ends, practice will be held on terrain where the strike of the bullets can be plainly seen from the guns.

1437. By reducing dimensions of targets, intervals, distances, and ranges to one-tenth of those met in service, very realistic simulation of service conditions may often be obtained and opportunity afforded for practice in using instruments and field glasses and in computing firing data under varied conditions.

Service Practice.

1438. Organizations will be prepared for service practice by careful and detailed preliminary instruction, during which the provisions of paragraphs 1 to 3 will be kept constantly in view. The preliminary training contemplates—

(*a*) The study of principles and methods.

(*b*) The training of organizations to a skillful and accurate performance of their duties.

(*c*) The application of this training to the solution in the field of problems simulating those met in war.

Digitized by Google

The successive steps to be followed in the training are: First, the establishment of thorough fire discipline in the unit by means of constant drill and subcaliber practice; second, exercises in the field, in which technical problems are assumed, making use of actual targets or of such natural features of the landscape as may be available; third, the solution of tactical problems of a character illustrating conditions of service in war.

1439. In order that all junior officers may receive the maximum instruction they will be required to command batteries at drills and in tactical exercises involving the reconnoissance, selection, and occupation of positions, the preparation of fire, and the departure from positions.

1440. At service practice all officers who are not required for the service of the unit actually firing or who are not detailed for specific duties connected with the practice will be assembled at some convenient point from which the fire may be observed, but where they will not interfere with the officers directing and conducting the fire. They will be informed regarding the situation and the targets, and will compute and record appropriate firing data. They will also record their observation of each round in range, height of burst and distribution, and their changes of data based thereon. These records will be taken to the subsequent critique and there discussed.

1441. No service practice will be held by any organization unless suitable and ample terrain for the conduct of the practice in conformity with the spirit of this order is available. If such terrain is not available, application will be made by the Artillery commander to superior authority with a view of securing suitable terrain on which to hold the practice.

1442. The final results obtained in service firing should be regarded as showing to what extent the organization concerned is prepared to perform its duties under battle conditions. Regimental, battalion, and battery commanders must keep this end in view during the period of preparatory training and also during the practice, and make every effort to derive the greatest possible advantage from the ammunition allotted to their respective organizations. This allowance will be expended in

Digitized by Google

problems involving fire direction for field officers and conduct of fire for battery and Artillery staff officers.

1443. The senior Artillery officer present with an organization will allot firing problems as follows:

(*a*) To each officer commanding a battery at least three problems.

(*b*) To the other officers present with or assigned to the organization for practice as many problems as the remaining ammunition will permit and in such proportion to these officers as he may consider to be for the best interest of the service.

He will also fix the maximum amount of ammunition to be expended in each day's firing.

1444. Exercises for colonels and lieutenant colonels will include the preparation of problems, and where two battalions, real or represented, are available, the execution of problems in which they will reconnoiter and select positions for the battalions, establish communication with the battalion commanders and with an assumed higher commander, and arrange with the latter for the supply of ammunition. In the exercise of fire direction and supervision of fire they will issue such orders and instructions as will cause the batteries to fire on their proper targets in accordance with assumed varying phases of the problem.

Problems for majors, where they supervise and direct the fire, will be the same as for colonels. Where they direct the fire as battalion commanders under supervision of the regimental commander they will reconnoiter the position assigned the battalion, designate the position to be occupied by and assign the proper task to each battery, establish the required communications, assign a position to the battalion combat train, arrange for the supply of ammunition, establish auxiliary observers where necessary and practicable, establish the service of security where the situation requires it, and will, during the firing, send to the officer conducting the fire all available information to assist him in properly carrying out his problem.

Problems for captains and lieutenants will include the duties of the battery commander in reconnoissance and in conduct of fire on targets designated by higher commanders.

Digitized by Google

In several of the problems the officer supervising the practice will arrange to outline the troops which the Field Artillery is supporting, to represent the ammunition trains by men and material taken from organizations not participating in the problem, and to establish the required communications.

1445. In the course of each year's practice, all of the problems commonly met in war service should be illustrated. This can be accomplished only by a systematic and methodical advance preparation of a schedule of firing exercises for the command concerned. The progression should be from simple problems to the more difficult ones.

Each battery and battalion should have at least one exercise yearly involving fire from more than one position, preferably with different methods of laying; each battalion at least one exercise yearly involving the direction and conduct of fire of all its batteries simultaneously.

All problems of the same day should be based on a simple tactical situation.

1446. Complex problems should be distributed over a period of years.

1447. The amount of ammunition to be expended in each problem will depend upon the principles which it is intended to illustrate. Ordinarily the problem should proceed only through adjustment and such other firing as is necessary to test the conclusions reached by the officers conducting the fire. Each year, however, some practice in fire for effect by all the mechanisms of fire must also be conducted.

In the earlier problems allotted to officers the firing may be conducted very slowly, discussion before assembled officers following each phase of the problem, such as the determination of firing data, methods of fire to be used, observation of fire, sensing, changes of data, etc., before the next step in the problem is taken. As skill is attained increase of speed must be insisted upon.

Officers supervising or directing the fire should terminate a problem at any time when they consider that conduct of fire is

Digitized by Google

inefficient or when the principles involved have been demonstrated.

1448. When material targets are used, their dimensions, appearance, and except for moving targets, their resistance to effect should conform as closely as possible to the troops and material that they represent.

Material targets will be used for all direct laying and for all fire for effect. In problems intended to be carried only through adjustment of fire, targets may be merely assumed to exist.

All targets are disposed in accordance with a tactical situation.

1449. Ammunition chests will be packed as for active service as far as the ammunition on hand permits.

1450. The senior Field Artillery officer will preside at critiques of each day's firing.

1451. Practice by battery will be supervised by battalion commanders and by regimental commanders; by battalion, by regimental commanders; by regiment, by brigade commanders or the senior field-artillery officer; by larger units and in the arms combined, by higher commanders.

1452. In the execution of problems, particularly during the firing, losses of officers, men, and animals, injuries to matériel, and the necessity for ammunition resupply will be simulated from time to time.

1453. The officer supervising the practice—

(*a*) Will prepare in writing problems to be solved by the officer directing the fire. The problems should involve the use of the artillery units in as many of the different rôles to which they might be assigned in service as the allowance of ammunition will permit.

(*b*) Will provide a range officer and a range guard detailed from the artillery command, and preferably from units other than the ones taking part in the problems; will furnish the range officer with a copy of the problem, inform him as to the kind and location of the targets required or that will be assumed, and in a general way indicate the position of the observing station for the range party.

Digitized by Google

(*c*) Will provide assistant range officers, a safety officer, and a timekeeper and inform them in sufficient time as to the approximate position to be occupied by the battery whose fire they are to observe.

(*d*) Will inform the officer directing the fire, when other than himself, as to the time and place at which to report with his unit to receive the problem.

(*e*) Will, when more than one battery takes part, so arrange the execution of the problem that the fire of each battery may be observed and recorded separately, except in simultaneous firing.

(*f*) Will, immediately after each fire problem or after the practice, conduct a general critique of the firing, pointing out errors of methods, observation, and judgment and giving a decision as to the conduct of the problem, conferring with the range observers if communication with them is established.

(*g*) Will, as soon as practicable after each day's practice, conduct a detailed critique of each problem fired, based on the various reports required. This critique will cover all the principles illustrated by maneuver or fire during the problems. It will include comments on such subjects as:

Condition of matériel and adjustment of sights and instruments.

Use of headquarters detachments and battery commanders' details.

Marking the route.

Reconnaissance of targets and position.

Selection of position.

Decision based on the tactical situation.

The service of security.

Assignment of units to particular tasks.

Communications.

Clearness and brevity of instructions given.

Designation of objectives.

Reconnaissance by battery commanders.

March discipline.

Digitized by Google

Occupation of positions.
The preparation and use of cover.
Posting of combat train and limbers.
Suitability of methods of fire.
Fire discipline.
Time consumed in—

1. Reconnaissance and selection of position.
2. Assignment of units to positions.
3. Occupation by each unit of its position.
4. Designation and identification of targets.
5. Opening fire.
6. Fire for adjustment.
7. Fire for effect.

Effect obtained.
Replenishment of ammunition.
Advance or withdrawal from position.
Accuracy and completeness of records.

Free discussion will be encouraged during this critique in order that all may profit from the mistakes made as well as by the correct methods employed.

The officer conducting the critique will express a definite opinion as to merits of the various features of the problems and as to the time consumed.

1454. Critiques should be short, good-tempered, impersonal, interesting, lively, and instructive.

Contention, and hair-splitting discussion of far-fetched and petty points are exasperating and tiresome and therefore harmful.

Events are discussed in the order of their occurrence.

That conducted after each problem is general in terms and covers briefly the incidents of firing only while impressions are still fresh in the mind. It clears the way for the subsequent detailed critiques, which need not again touch upon the points disposed of except in the direction of such elaboration and correction as are made necessary by the practice reports. At the latter critique each commander who has had to do with a phase

Digitized by Google

of the problem should give a brief sketch of his execution of the orders received, followed by a frank statement of the errors made of which he is conscious. The officer conducting the critique will then clear up any doubtful circumstances by appropriate questions and will discuss the important features of the problem. Criticism must be well-founded and just. Violations of principles laid down in these regulations must be considered faulty, but in differences of opinion as to the suitability to the situation of alternative authorized methods the comment must be explanatory and advisory.

1455. The officer directing the fire—

(*a*) Will, in general, be responsible for the tactical handling of the problem.

(*b*) Will make such arrangements as are necessary to have his unit at the proper time at the location designated by the officer supervising the practice for receiving the problem.

(*c*) May, if he considers it advisable, when the officer conducting the fire has reported the data he used in the simulated fire for effect, order verifying salvos or fire for effect if the allowance of ammunition for the problem is not thereby exceeded.

1456. The officer conducting the fire—

(*a*) Will, on receiving instructions from the officer directing the fire, proceed with the solutions of the problem with the ammunition allotted.

(*b*) Will, when directed not to proceed beyond the adjustment of fire, order the fire to cease when adjustment suited to the situation has been obtained, and then execute a simulated fire for effect. If the officer directing the fire is not in a position to hear the commands for simulated fire, the conductor of fire will have them communicated to him at once.

1457. The range officer—

Will report for instructions to the officer supervising the practice and with his range party will prepare, place in positions indicated, and, when necessary, operate the targets prescribed. He will observe and report upon the firing and submit at the conclusion of the day's practice the prescribed reports.

Digitized by Google

For the purpose of securing safety of the range during firing, he is responsible—

(*a*) That the terrain in the line of fire is examined before firing commences, and that all people and live stock are excluded and kept therefrom.

(*b*) That guards are posted so as to cover all approaches to the sector of fire, which includes the terrain from the guns to the target as well as the danger zone beyond the target.

(*c*) That the guards are properly instructed as to their duties. This instruction he will give in person.

(*d*) That whenever the firing should be stopped on account of danger on the range, a **red** flag is displayed where the officer conducting the fire can see it.

(*e*) That when the range is clear a **white** flag is displayed.

1458. The assistant range officer No. 1—

(*a*) Will report to the officer supervising the fire for instructions.

(*b*) Will provide himself with the necessary instruments and blanks, and be, at the proper time, at the position of the battery whose fire he is to observe.

(*c*) Will inform himself as to the target assigned and observe from a position as near the battery as practicable and record the height of the burst above bottom of target in mils.

1459. The assistant range officer No. 2—

(*a*) Will report to the officer supervising the fire for instructions.

(*b*) Will provide himself with the necessary instruments and blanks, and be, at the proper time, at the position of the battery whose fire he is to observe.

(*c*) Will inform himself as to the target assigned and observe, record, and, in collaboration with the range officer, plot the distribution of shots with reference to the target and the line battery target.

1460. The safety officer—

Will report for instructions to the officer supervising the practice and will have the "**red**" flag raised and lowered as directed.

Digitized by Google

For the purpose of securing safety he is responsible—

(*a*) That no command is given for firing while the range, so far as visible to him, is not clear, nor unless white flag is displayed by the range officer.

(*b*) That before firing commences, and during its continuance, a "red" flag is displayed near the guns where it can be seen by the range officer.

(*c*) That the direction in which the pieces are laid does not endanger the range or observing parties.

1461. The timekeeper will record the times necessary to determine the data referred to in section (*g*), paragraph **1453.**

1462. All individuals in the military service who see that firing is about to take place which would be dangerous, will call out promptly "Cease firing" in a loud tone of voice, and if at a distance from the battery, make the prescribed signal therefor. **The red flag in all cases indicates danger; the white flag that the range is clear.**

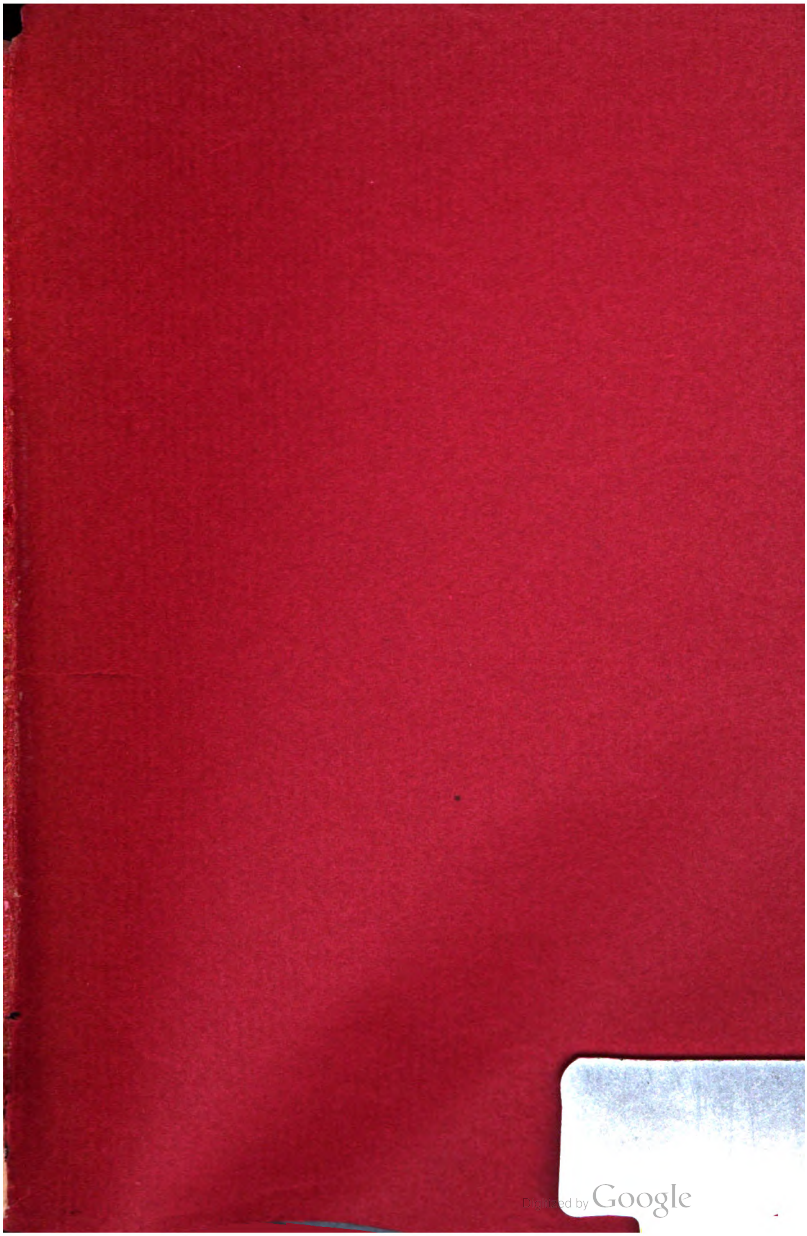
1463. All persons not a part of the personnel of the unit firing except the officer supervising the practice and his assistants are forbidden to communicate with any of the personnel connected with the practice except to stop the firing in case of danger.

Digitized by Google

ADDITIONAL COPIES

OF THIS PUBLICATION MAY BE PROCURED FROM
THE SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.
AT
20 CENTS PER COPY
Δ

Digitized by Google


Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google